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# JOURNAL OF CHAUSSEGROS DE LÉRY



PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HARRISBURG

1940

Publication

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# JOURNAL OF CHAUSSEGROS DE LÉRY

4

Northwestern Pennsylvania Historical Series

Prepared by

FRONTIER FORTS AND TRAILS SURVEY  
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Work Projects Administration

Edited by

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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## INTRODUCTION

The Journal of Chaussegros de Léry for 1754-1755 gives an interesting account in diary form, of the French activities in northwestern Pennsylvania and other parts of the upper country, as the French called the West. Here are to be found the first sketches of the Presque Isle, of Lake LaBoeuf, of the head of Lake Chautauqua; the first measurements of the Chautauqua and Presque Isle Portages; accounts of the amount of goods carried over these portages; lists of officers; and reports of such interesting events as the Jumonville skirmish and the capture of Fort Necessity.

Joseph Gaspard Chaussegros de Léry was the son of an engineer from Toulon, France. His father was sent to Canada in 1716 by the Council of the Marine to direct the work on the fortifications of Quebec and other similar projects. Joseph Gaspard was born in Quebec July 21, 1721. He entered the Minor Seminary of Quebec, June 29, 1731, and received his education from the Jesuits' College.

In 1739, at the age of eighteen, he was given the position of assistant-engineer in Quebec. He had evidently learned a great deal from his father who had been an authority on fortifications. In this same year De Léry accompanied De Longueuil's detachment from Canada to Fort Assumption on an expedition against the Chicachas. He sketched the route from the Niagara Falls to the Mississippi, making a fairly accurate map of the Ohio river. On April 5, 1755, in his journal he mentions having made this expedition against the Chicachas, "At 10:15 came upon the Belle Rivière which I had not seen for 16 years, when I surveyed it while going to the Chicachats in 1739...."

A few years before his expedition to Detroit, De Léry had been commandant of Fort Beausejour in Acadia. While there he was made a lieutenant. He had supervised the building of Forts Beausejour and Gaspareau.

French troops were being mobilized, and provisions sent to Belle Rivière in anticipation of increased activity there on the part of the English. M. De Léry was hopeful of being sent there, but instead was ordered to Detroit to serve under Celoron. The last of April, he set out from Quebec for Detroit where he was to assist Celoron. From this point on, his expedition is covered in detail in the present journal.

In 1757 he was made a captain, and in 1759 was given the Cross of St. Louis.

A year after the capitulation of Montreal, De Léry went to Paris, and from there to London where he was presented to King George III.

In 1774, M. de Léry was chosen as one of the members of the legislative council formed under the Quebec Act.

He was the father of 18 children. A son, François Joseph, became Lieutenant-General, Chief Engineer and Baron of the French Empire.

He died in Quebec, December 11, 1797. M. de Léry was considered an intelligent and devoted officer as well as a competent engineer. He had also advanced geographical knowledge of his time by his careful surveys of the routes followed. He was the first to chart the Ohio river by compass, thus providing the basis for a fairly accurate map of it.\*

M. Pierre-Georges Roy, archivist of the province of Quebec, who included De Léry's journal in his report for 1927-1928 made the following comment concerning it:

"The journal of the activities of Joseph-Gaspard Chaussegros de Léry, officer in the troops of the naval detachment, during the years 1754 and 1755, is not a literary piece. M. de Léry, as with most of his contemporaries, commencing with our last governor de Vaudreuil, was not very strong in orthography nor skillful in the art of making fine phrases. His meaning is not immediately caught. But the curious details found in this journal about the Upper Country and principally Detroit compensate amply for the trouble one has reading it.

"We shall continue in our next reports the publication of M. Chaussegros de Léry's journals. I repeat here my sincere thanks to Monseigneur Amedée Gosselin for having put at our disposal the complete series of the De Léry journals preserved in the archives of the seminary in Quebec. These notebooks, written from day to day during the uncertainty of encampments and encounters with the Indians, were not intended for the public. M. de Léry noted his impressions for himself and his family. It seems to me they gain a greater importance because of this. One who writes for the public is interested in humoring his superiors and his fellow officers who, accordingly, may either aid or injure him. M. de Léry kept a personal journal, almost secret. Do we not have reason to presume that he wrote what he thought, honestly and without misrepresentation?"

\*Paraphrased from "Old Fort Sandoské of 1745 and the Sandusky Country" by Lucy Elliot Keeler, in Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society Publications, Vol. XVII, pp. 371-373.

Monseigneur Amedée Gosselin said of the present journal, in the Report of the Archivist of the Province of Quebec for 1926-1927: "1754-1755, from March 7, 1754 to August 5, 1755. No title, but it concerns a visit to the upper posts as far as, and including Detroit. This journal consists of seven small notebooks of the same size (8x6) making in all 288 pages, several of them blank. It ends August 5, 1755 with an unfinished sentence. It is one of the most interesting journals, perhaps, because of the drawings (some of them colored), in the text and beside the text."

M. Pierre-Georges Roy, editor of the report for 1927-1928, goes on to say, "We gave in this same Report only a part of M. de Léry's important journal, the rest having been set aside momentarily. We believe it preferable to give here all of M. de Léry's Journal for 1754 and 1755, that is to say, the 24 pages published last year and the unpublished part. In this way, all the Journal of 1754-1755 will be published in the same volume."

All of the work involved in the translation of this journal has been done by workers of the Frontier Forts and Trails Survey, a historical research project of the Work Projects Administration, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. The translation was made from the French version printed in the Rapport de l'archiviste de la Province de Québec pour 1928-1929. M. Pierre-Georges Roy, the archivist of Quebec, must be thanked for his helpful cooperation.



April 1754

[April] 22nd, I left Quebec at 7 o'clock in the morning, commanding a detachment of 120 militiamen in eight boats.

M. Forget Duverger, priest of the Seminary of Foreign Missions, embarked with me. He was on his way to the Illinois Mission where he was to go this year. He acted as Chaplain along the way as far as Montreal.

I arrived at Ecureuils at eight o'clock in the evening.

[April] 23rd, I spent the night at Cape Saint-Claude.

[April] 24th, I spent the night at Trois Rivières.

[April] 25th, I spent the night at the Isles.

[April] 26th, I spent the night at Repentigny.

[April] 27th, I arrived at Montreal at six o'clock in the evening. I turned over the detachment according to orders, and delivered the rigging and boat implements to the King's storehouses.

This day a new list appeared of the officers who were to command the brigades of the militia going to Belle Rivière. I was appointed to command the third brigade which made me believe that my destination was changed from the one indicated in the order of March 19th.

[April] 28th, I asked the general his reason for placing me on the list for Belle Rivière, and explained why I preferred this campaign to being in garrison at Detroit. He told me that my destination for this post had not been changed, and that he would give me orders. However, I might not have to go to Detroit, but he could not tell what future events would dictate. If he wanted me in Detroit, it was only for the good of that post and from his desire to oblige me. I begged him not to keep me there any longer than necessary, that is to say no longer than the service needed me, and told him I would not attempt to carry on any business there, burdening myself with no merchandise and only a small amount of provisions since I was hoping to go to Belle Rivière. In the meantime I would fulfill his orders with the same zeal wherever he might send me, and would even sacrifice my own affairs which required my presence in Quebec.

May 1754

[May] 2nd,

Friday, I left Montreal and spent the night at Lachine, where the brigades were being formed.

The general sent me an order of which the following is a copy:

Marquis Duquesne, etc.:

Sieur de Lery, lieutenant of the company of troops of this colony, is ordered to leave Lachine with a brigade of twelve canoes, and to go to Niagara as quickly as possible where he will find further orders, charging him to go by the southern route.

Done at Montreal,  
May 2, 1754.

Signed DUQUESNE  
and below by Monseigneur MEREL

[May] 3rd,

Saturday, at five o'clock in the evening, they sent me a brigade composed of 24 soldiers, a sergeant, and 60 militiamen, twelve bark canoes, each accomodating eight, and 360 pieces of freight which I divided among the said canoes; I left Pilette's and passed the night at Chainier's.

[May] 4th,

Sunday, at six o'clock in the morning the wind abated and I crossed the Rivière de Châteauguay where I had two of the canoes repaired that had been broken open by an inexperienced boatman. There were four of them in the same condition, which made me fear that we should be delayed by them at the rapids.

At ten o'clock I set out along the Isles de la Paix. The S. E. wind rose. I set sail and foresail at the mill of Isle Perrot; afterwards I bore on toward the Cascades crowding the wind which was still strong. Five of the canoes were unable to follow, the oarsmen not knowing how to steer. I allowed myself to be driven to the Isle Perrot shore and arrived at Pointe des Cascades at noon. At three o'clock I camped above the Tronc. At one o'clock the wind became violent.

[May] 5th,

Monday, at day-break, I sent out the canoes, and went to the Pointe des Cascades to see if I could discover the five missing canoes of whose whereabouts I had no knowledge. I followed along the shore as far as the portage, which I made

above the Bisson, where I found the seven canoes I had sent out in the morning.

I arrived at Coteau des Cèdres at noon; the wind was violent.

I sent by cart to the northwest the load from six canoes, which went up the so-called Cèdres as far as the portage, a half league from Coteau des Cèdres.

I ordered the pilot of the six canoes to go as far as Fort Presentation and wait there for me.

An inhabitant of Isle Perrot told me that he had heard a gun shot at Isle Perrot; I told him to go where he had heard the shot and to inform the Sergeant who was to cross there during the night (for I feared the wind which had then subsided would return with renewed force the next day) that as the canoes were inadequately manned, he should embark with them, and I would see to it that he was paid.

I sent an inhabitant of the Cèdres, whom I had hired to steer the lead canoe as far as la Presentation, to go to the Cascades to wait for the canoes which would take the lead from there, and to send me a messenger as soon as said canoes arrived.

[May] 6th,

Tuesday, at a very early hour I sent out six canoes that I had above the Rapid des Cèdres and returned to the hill from where I placed a man on vedette at Pointe des Cascades. There was nothing in sight. The southwest winds were furiously violent, making it impossible to attempt a crossing, which disarranged my plans, as I was bound to be bothered by the brigades which were to follow me and were to be ready to leave Lachine as soon as the wind abated.

[May] 7th,

Wednesday, I arrived early in the morning at the Rapid du Tronc where I found that my five canoes had arrived. I hurried so that at 7 o'clock in the evening they were above the Cèdres at a place called the Portage, where I spent the night.

One of the brigades at the Bisson, commanded by M. Montigny, arrived at noon. It was very cold during the night, with a light frost.

[May] 8th, Thursday, I left early. The weather was very cold when we were leaving the settlement and I was kept busy collecting my men. The intense cold had driven them into the houses to get warm and I had some difficulty getting them started.

I arrived at Coteau du Lac at noon, and remained there until two o'clock to gum my canoes, which the heavy frost had caused to crack. I slept at the entrance to the small lake where I found the canoes I had sent from the Cèdres, the 6th of this month. They were damaged by a headwind.

[May] 9th, Friday, I left at dawn, passed the small lake said to be seven leagues long. From the Isle à la Traverse, following the coast, we took a W.S.W. course. I slept at Pointe Maligne, a fine camp, 4 leagues from the small lake. It was warm every day with no wind. M. de Niverville coming from Belle Rivière told me he had driven out the English.

[May] 10th, Saturday, left at day-break, 4:59 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.; at 5:19 Rivière Cadjacqué to the left of W.; at 5:25 N.W.; at 5:27 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; at 5:35 W.; at 5:49 Point au Pin, W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; at 5:55 N.W.; at 6:15 stopped to smoke; at 6:34 continued W.S.W.; at 6:45 N.W.; at 6:58 remote channel; at 7 o'clock entered the small channel of a thousand rocks N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.; at 7:18 N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.; at 7:22 N.W.; at 7:23 N.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 7:24 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; at 7:30 stopped for breakfast; at 8:50 left W.N.W.; at 8:56 W.S.W.; at 8:58 S.W.; at 9:06 small mill, S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.N.N.W.S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.W. S.W.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W. S.W.; at 9:15 small channel of Long Sault [the Rapids], S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 10:30 portage of Long Sault, a fine camp, where my men had dinner and then brought up the canoes, which kept me until evening. I slept above the portage having left a canoe below that needed to be repaired.

[May] 11th, Early Sunday morning, I had the canoe which had been left below the evening before brought up. Half way up the portage, it split and filled with water. I had twenty men tow it with ropes. When they got it up the rapids, I distributed the load among the other canoes and I left the broken one on the bank, judging it unfit for the campaign.

At a quarter past two, left Long Sault W.S.W.; at 2:35 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 2:40 W.N.W.; at 2:44 W.S.W.; at 2:53 river to the right W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; at 10 o'clock W.N.W.; at 10:08 W.; at 10 o'clock S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 11:09 stream, Sainte-Marie S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 11:28 end of the stream, Sainte-Marie; stopped at 11:45 W.S.W.; at 12:20 W.S.W. stopped for dinner, at 1:16 departed W.; at 1:25 N.W.; at 1:34 W.S.W.; at 2:50 stopped; at 3:30 left N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 3:35 W.S.W.; at 3:45 W.; at 3:50 S.W.; at



4:34 S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 4:50 W.S.W.; at 5 o'clock W.; at 5:20 stopped; left at 6:15, entered the Rapid Plat W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; at 6:30 W.N.W.; at 6:38 W.S.W.; at 7:08 left the Rapid Plat and camped.

[May] 12th,

Monday, I left with all my canoes at 6:30 W.S.W.; at 6:38 Pointe a Colac; at 7:04 W.N.W.; 7:08 small river W.S.W.; at 7:34 S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 7:45 S.W.; from 7:45 until 7:58 went round the Anse au Gobelet, took S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; at 8:20 Pointe aux Iroquois W.S.W.; at 9:08 passed Presque Isle, stopped at 9:25, left at 10 o'clock S.W.; at 11:00 Pointe à Cardinal N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 11:18 S.W.; at 11:38 les Galaux N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at noon W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W. After Presque Isle we found three small rivers, the last of which is exactly above the Galaux; it has two channels. After the Anse au Perche, we went due west, stopped for dinner above said cove at 1:28 S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 1:55 W.S.W.; at 2 o'clock E.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.S.; at 2:10 arrived at Fort de la Presentation. The rain which had fallen part of the day and which continued to fall in abundance prevented six of my canoes from arriving that day. I had, meanwhile, left them all at the Anse aux Perches.

[May] 13th,

Tuesday, at 8 o'clock I had the six canoes I had left at Anse aux Perches the day before, on account of the heavy rain, unloaded, and the baggage carefully covered. At two o'clock the rain ceased. I had a supplement of fresh bread given to the detachment. At three o'clock I left, and at 7 o'clock camped a half league from Pointe au Barille which I estimate to be three leagues from Fort de la Presentation. The wind was unfavorable at dawn Wednesday.

[May] 14th,

Wednesday, I left at noon and landed at little Detroit where I waited until two o'clock for six of my canoes; seeing they did not arrive, I thought they must have been detained by the rain. I left and waited for them two leagues farther down at Isle aux Citrons, where I camped at 4 o'clock to await the said canoes. The heavy rain did not permit them to follow me.

[May] 15th,

Thursday, there was a heavy fog until half-past eight. Seeing that the six canoes had not appeared, I conducted the party two leagues higher where I camped at noon on the Isle aux Citrons. It thundered and stormed, and I was situated so I could watch for the canoes I was expecting.

[May] 16th,

Thursday, I waited for the canoes until 8 o'clock when I left, thinking that, not having a guide, they must have lost their way among the islands. I decided to go and wait for them at the entrance of Lake Ontario, at



Isle aux Chevreuils, but an hour after my departure a savaie told me that the night before he had heard the canoes pass on their way to Fort Frontenac, which made me decide to go and get them if they were there, or to beg the commander to send them to me to the Isle aux Chevreuils if they should arrive after my departure.

I arrived at the fort at three o'clock but did not find my canoes. I asked the commander if they arrived to send them on to Isle aux Chevreuils, where I hoped, meanwhile, to find them.

I had additional bread and brandy given to my men, and at half-past 4, I left and crossed to Isle Laforest.

At 5:20 I doubled the eastern point of Isle Laforest and entered a channel formed by the little isle and the great isle S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 5:45 doubled the first point of the great isle S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; opposite this point, seven arpents wide, is a small island; at 6:05 doubled a second point of the great isle S.S.E.; at 6:12 doubled a third point of the great isle and camped, the lake being so rough that the canoes ran a risk of being broken. To the S.W. of this point, two leagues wide, we saw a little round island, which was called Isle de L'Enfant Perdu. The wind was strong during the night, so I had the equipment taken into the woods.

I estimated I had covered from Fort Frontenac to this encampment:

From the fort to the  
Isle Laforest----- 2 leagues 14 arpents

From this island to the  
first point of the great  
isle- 28 "

To the second point ----- 28 "

To the third point ----- 21 "

---

3 leagues 7 arpents.

[May] 17th,

Friday, the lake was rough until 7:12 when I left, a small bay about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a league deep S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; at 7:48 doubled a point where there is a rocky flat about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a league wide, stopped at 8:12. Departed, the south wind strong enough to interfere with my progress, a bay about  $\frac{1}{4}$  a

league deep E.; at 9 o'clock camped at the last point of the great isle, I could not double it as the south wind was too strong, and I should have risked losing my canoes on this steep rocky point.

While the canoes I sought were at the mainland which, with the large island where I was, forms the channel, I had my flag placed at the top of a tree so they could see it. I had no idea of the whereabouts of the canoes. It is true the lake was so rough that there were times when the mainland was not visible.

From the third point of the large island	)	
to the fourth, 56 arpents	)	$1\frac{1}{4}$ leagues,
	)	
From the fourth point to the fifth,	)	
63 arpents	)	14 arpents

[May] 18th,

Saturday, the wind subsided an hour before daybreak, I could not launch the canoes until 7 o'clock, and at 7:12 departed, doubling the point with great difficulty. Entered the large channel of the river, where I headed for the eastern point of the Isle aux Chevreuils E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; at 8:35 changed my route, headed for the western point of Isle aux Chevreuils. Noticing a fire on the mainland, I sent out a canoe which reported an hour later that it was the missing canoes, which were ready to follow me at 9:35. Doubled the point of Isle aux Chevreuils, stopped at 9:45, left and crossed to the Isle aux Galops, where my canoes joined me, or at least I saw them coming out from between the Isle Renard and the Isle aux Chevreuils. I headed for Isle au Galop, the nearest land. The wind was quite strong to the N.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. Half-way across I saw M. Péan's brigade coming out of the channel of the Isle aux Chevreuils and the Isle au Renard.

At the time I estimated the point to the north of the Bay de Niasseurée, to be about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a league away, course S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E. At one o'clock arrived at the eastern point of Isle au Galop, the nearest land. I explain myself because there are three Isles aux Galops, the middle one is much smaller than the two others. The wind had increased to such an extent that I had difficulty in reaching the island and M. Péan hastened to land half way across in a cove formed by the north point of Bay de Niasseurée with the Isle au Renard. From where I was camped in a place [racroc] where our canoes stopped, all still loaded, I saw the entrance of Bay de Niasseurée. It is said this bay is twelve leagues deep. There are many islands at its entrance.

From the last point of the great isle to the western point of Isle aux Chevreuils, 2 leagues 56 arpents.

From this point to the eastern point of Isle au Galop, 3 to 5  $\frac{2}{3}$  leagues.

The force of the wind increased at three o'clock in the afternoon and veered to the west. At 4 o'clock M. Saint-Blain, officer, arrived from Belle Rivière. He told me that he brought letters for the general to tell him that there was a shortage of provisions at that post. He had a letter for M. Péan which he left with me.

[May] 19th,

Sunday, the wind subsided somewhat. I left and crossed to the mainland where I found M. Péan with his brigade, it was 6:15. I gave him the letter that M. de Saint-Blain had given me for him, and he gave me three from Madame de Léry of the 24th, 25th and 28th of May. I set out with M. Pean's Brigade, at 6:50 S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.; at 7:15 S.E.; stopped at 8:50; started again at 8:40 S.E.; at 9 o'clock S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; at 9:45 S.; at 10:54 aux Sables; stopped at 11:55; left at 12:31 S.W.; at 1 o'clock Rivière au Barille; at 2:27 Rivière à la Planche S.S.W.; stopped at 2:40; departed at 2:45 S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 3:15 great Rivière à La Famine, at 3:30 small Rivière à la Famine; at 3:34 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W. Since I had joined M. Péan, we did not cover more than a league per hour. He had 12 men for each canoe and I had seven. I was astonished to see a brigade so well armed; at 3:34 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; from 2:20 to 3:50 Rivière au Chicot; at 3:51 Petite Anse; at 4 o'clock Petit Marais; stopped at 4:34; departed W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W. camped at about half-past five, 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  leagues from Fort Choueguen; I was ten arpents above M. Péan's camp. The west wind ceased at 10 o'clock in the morning, the rest of the day the wind was from the south. We passed the Rivière au Comte, 31  $\frac{1}{4}$  leagues from Isle au Galop, the nearest land. It is said to be 2 leagues from the Rivière au Comte to the Rivière au Sable.

I stationed sentries around my little camp as usual.

[May] 20th,

Monday, we left at 4:35. My brigade was the vanguard and M. Péan marched with his, two or three arpents behind us. We had loaded our guns so as not to be taken unawares if the English should offer us any affronts. W  $\frac{1}{4}$  N. W.; at 5:14 W.S.W.; at 6:05 S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 6:20 S.S.W.; at 6:45 S.W  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 7:05 passed before the English Fort de Choueguen with drums beating and flag flying, the fort raised theirs as soon as they perceived us. W.S.W. at 7:34; stopped at 8:42; left at 9 o'clock; swamp S.W. at 9:18; S.S.W. at 9:21; W.S.W. at 9:35, S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W. at 10 o'clock; S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S. at noon, landed at 12:25; W.S.W. at 1:50; at 3:40

we had some wind; at 3:52 entered Bay-des-Coyogouins, from noon until the present time we have not made more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  league an hour; at 5 o'clock we continued rowing; at 5:15 N.W., camped. It has rained all night.

The only change I noticed at Fort de Choueguen, since my visit there in 1749, was a covering of planks over the rafters that they had added to a small wall to replace the wooden machicolation which was there then, and which had doubtless rotted, not having been covered, the house being decked like a vessel and the machicolation placed on the deck. I counted nine small openings in the new wall on the side facing the river. Later in the day we had a light N.E. wind.

[May] 21st, Tuesday, left at 3:36 N.W.; at 3:50 W.N.W.; at 4:24 W.; at 4:50 stopped; at 5:09 left W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; at 6:02 W.; at 7:56 W.; at 9:55 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.; at 10:50 W.; at 11 W.N.W.; at 11:35 N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W; at noon stopped; at 12:50 departed N.W. W. Rivière au Chicot, stopped  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. Departed at 2:30 N.W.; at 3:05 river which is at the end of the great swamp, at 3:32 N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 4:15 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; at 6:25 camped with M. Péan's brigade. Around two o'clock in the afternoon there was a storm which lasted a quarter of an hour.

[May] 22nd, Wednesday, at 4:50 we departed W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; 5:15 N.W.; at 5:55 stopped; at 6:38 left W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; at 7:30 stopped; at 8:26 left W.; at 9:49 great Rivière au Boeuf W.; at 11:06 small Rivière au Boeuf; at 11:30 marsh; at noon stopped; at 12:45 left W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; at 2:38 W.; at 3 o'clock W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.; at 6:30 camped at the large dam.

[May] 23rd, Thursday, at 3 o'clock we departed W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.; at 5 o'clock the great swamp W.S.W.; at 7:12 stopped at Marais de l'Orme; at 7:20 started W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.; at 7:50 small marsh where M. Péan hastened to overtake M. Montigny's brigade which was ahead of him. I could not keep up with him as my canoe was not as well manned as his. He saluted the fort and arrived at Niagara at 8:45 and I at 9 o'clock. They returned his salute by setting off fireworks. I arrived while they were going off. I did not have my brigade salute, which was well because they would not have responded, believing me to be with M. Péan.

Before arriving at the fort, we perceived two prominent points which are above Niagara.

I delivered a letter from the general to the commander of Fort Niagara in which was enclosed the following order for me:



Marquis Duquesne, etc.:

It is ordered that Sieur de Léry, lieutenant of the company of troops of this colony, is to go to Chatakoïn after having made the Niagara portage.

He is to load his canoes as heavily as possible, both for safety and dispatch in transporting the goods.

Done at Montreal, May 2, 1754.

Signed DUQUESNE  
and signed below by Monseigneur MEREL.

- [May] 24th, Friday. I wanted to leave to make the portage. M. Péan stopped me, saying he needed me. He sent out M. de Montigny's brigade, to whom I gave 60 of my men to assist him in making the portage. M. de Saint Ours, as well as M. du Buisson, was still with his brigade at the small fort.
- [May] 25th, Saturday, M. Péan became ill. A canoe arrived from Montreal. The general wrote M. Péan that he would not be relieved this year. It rained a little.
- [May] 26th, Sunday, at 9 o'clock I went from the fort to the portage with 11 bark canoes, 60 men from M. Péan's brigade, and the same number of those M. de Muy had brought, who was going to replace M. de Celoron in Detroit until further orders. I spent the night at the top of the hill with the cargo and all my canoes, then sent to the other end of the portage the load of one canoe, carried by men, as M. de Montigny was using the carts to finish his portage.
- [May] 27th, Monday, I sent out 140 men with packages of freight for Le Platon, not wanting to mix the goods in my charge with those from the small fort. I was unable to get any carts.
- [May] 28th, Tuesday, I sent out my eleven bark canoes and left 148 packages with M. de Jonquière who was to send them to me the following day in the carts. I spent the night at Le Platon.
- [May] 29th, Wednesday, I came to the little fort where I had five boats loaded with 100 packages each; I spent the night at the said fort.

They brought an Englishman, captured at Belle Rivière, who told us 5000 English were coming with cannons to drive out the French.



[May] 30 th,

Thursday. early in the morning, I sent carpenters to the woods to cut oars for the five boats I had brought, not having any at the warehouse; this, added to the rain, detained me greatly. I had only 84 men to man 11 bark canoes and 5 boats. Nevertheless, I took 500 packages in the boats and 615 in the bark canoes, which in all made 1115 packages. I left at 1:38 S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E.; from 1:41 E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S. E.; until 6:05 skirted the shore and started to cross diagonally S.E.; at 2:11 S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 2:18 S.S.E.; at 2:21 stopped; at 2:26 departed S.S.W.; at 2:37 S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 3:21 small river; at 3:14 river S.W.; 3:39 stopped; at 3:55 departed S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S. E.; at 4:05 S.; at 4:15 stopped; at 4:25 left; at 4:43 S.S.E.; at 4:43 S.E.; at 4:45 S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E.; to avoid rocky shallows two arpents in width, returned S.E.; stopped at 5 o'clock. At 5:03 left E.S.E.; at 5:12 S.E.; at 5:21 E.S.E.; at 5:36 S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; at 5:52 isle S.S.E.; at 6:02 set sail; at 6:05 away from land S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E.; at 6:18 lowered the sail, crossed over to land to the north of S.E.; finished crossing at 6:27; at 6:37 E.S.E.; at 6:45 S.E.; 6:55 S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E.; 6:57 river; at 7:20 S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; at 7:42 S.; at 7:58 landed, at 8 o'clock reembarked S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; at 8:08 S.S.W.; at 9 o'clock landed and camped below the small rapid that I did not see, however. I had left the little fort early because of the news the Englishman had reported the day before, that 5,000 men were coming to drive us from Belle Rivière. I had written to ask M. Péan to go with him to Belle Rivière, and if I were to go, I should leave my trunk in Niagara, having only useless things in it if I should take this route. He replied, saying it was nothing but Indian news, that his health was growing worse, and that he counted on joining us soon at Tchatakoin where he would have need of me. It rained during the night.

[May] 31st,

Friday, I was unable to leave on account of a strong contrary wind which detained me; it fell during the night, and rained heavily.

June 1754

[June] 1st,

Saturday, it rained all day; the contrary wind was stronger than the day before.

[June] 2nd,

Sunday, west wind, I was determined, however, to depart -- furious for having been held up two days and counting on the brigades following to join me when I arrived at the crossing of Rivière aux Chevaux. The wind increased, forcing me to camp at 9 o'clock; left at 7:50 S.S.W.; at 8:16 S.S.E.; at 8:41 S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E.; at 9 o'clock arrived at the Rivière aux Chevaux. One of the last boats shipped a lot of water, six bags of seabiscuits became wet, yet I had time to have them dried.

At 7 o'clock  
M. de Muy. captain.  
arrived with 3 can-  
oes. He was going  
to Detroit to re-  
place M. de Célor-  
on until further  
orders. He told  
me that M. Péan  
was still sick.

Pointe aux Chevaux



[June] 3rd,

Monday,

left at 4:15  
S.S.E.; at 4:50 S.  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; camped un-  
der a small peak.

sketch of the Shore line

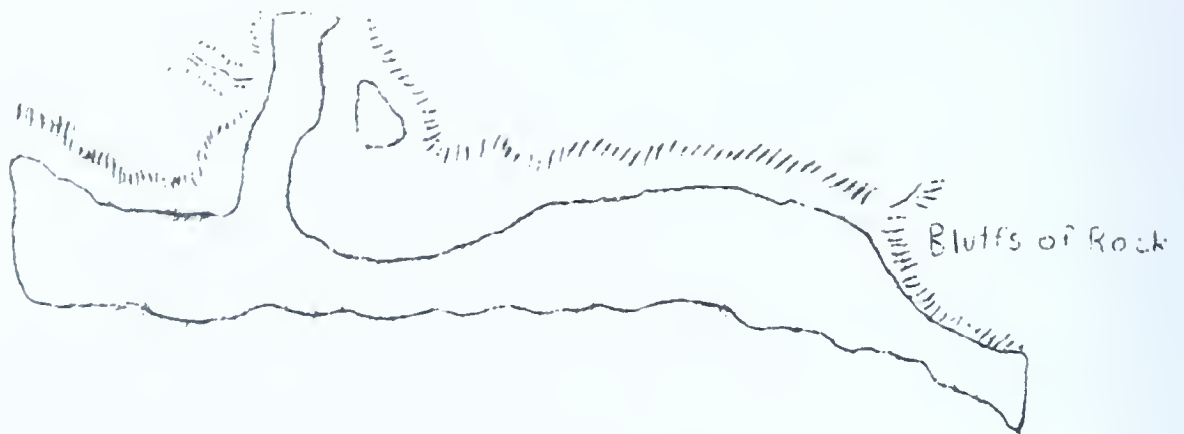


At 5:09 S.; at 5:20 one point S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; at 5:23 stopped; at 5:28 marched S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.; at 5:47 stream; at 5:57 S.S.W.; at 6:38 S.W.; at 6:55 W.S.W.; at 8 o'clock stopped; since 4:50 we have proceeded carefully because of the rocks near the surface of the water; at 8:40 left; at 9 o'clock at the Rivière à la Barbue; at 9:27 W.S.W.; at 10:02 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W. point; at 10:30 W.S.W. point; at 10:47 point S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 11:05 stopped; at 11:19 departed S.S.W. river; at 11:40 river S.S.W.; at 11:50 point S.W.; 12:15 stopped point; at 12:42 left S.W.; at 1:05 point S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 1:25 point S.S.W.; at 1:39 stopped; at 1:50 departed S.S.W.; at 2:06 camped at the Rivière au Sable. The force of the west wind increased. We met a canoe coming from Presque Isle which brought no news. Some Indians, who had horses, were camped in the woods.

[June] 4th,

Tuesday, it rained until eight o'clock in the morning, when a strong south wind rose and forced a cadet, coming from Presque Isle, to put in at the river where we were. He brought two English traders, who had been captured as they came from the Chasignons, not knowing that the English had been driven out of Belle Rivière.

The wind became so violent that it made the water in the river rise so that we were obliged to camp in the woods.



Sketch of the mouth of the Rivière au Sable. The water is deep at the entrance. When I passed by, loaded boats could enter the river.

The bluffs of rock marked above, are about a half league from the mouth of the river. Between the lake and the hill are sand banks frequently shifted by wind and water.

[June] 5th,

Wednesday, the south wind abated a little. The boat with the two Englishmen departed. The sun appeared, and my servant went into the woods. The men in the first canoe, which we had found at the Rivière aux Sables, embarked in the boat and left a canoe large enough for six men. I had it concealed at the edge of the woods near the entrance to the river. I wrote M. Péan to inform him of this, not being able to bring it along for want of men.

[June] 6th,

Thursday, at 7 o'clock in the morning my servant, who had been in the forest for 24 hours, arrived; I had sent out a party to find him, and at the time he returned, six men were setting out for that purpose. A cadet arrived from Niagara going to Belle Riviere to get a surgeon for M. Péan who continued to be ill. However, he sent his brigade to the Niagara portage and was to leave immediately, only sending for a surgeon in the hope of finding him on the way. As the south wind was strong I persuaded this courier to go by land to Chatakoïn, which he did, leaving at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

[June] 7th,

Friday, it rained all night and part of the day; the wind turned to the west  $1/4$  north, strong enough to prevent our leaving the river.

[June] 8th,                      Saturday, the wind subsided during the day, at 4:36 S.W.; at 5:17 W.S.W.; at 5:16 river; at 5:20 point S.W. 1/4 W.; at 5:36 stopped; at 5:45 left point W. 1/4 S.W.; at 6:16 point S.W. 1/4 W.; at 6:31 point W.S.W.; at 6:35 stopped; at 6:43 left S.W. 1/4 W.; at 7:34 W.S.W. stopped; at 8:22 point; at 8:55 left S.W.; at 9:30 S.W. 1/4 W.; reef near the center of the small bay.

At ten o'clock landed; at 10:50 left S.W. 1/4; at 10:57 S.W. 1/4 S.; at 11 o'clock S.W. 1/4 W; stopped at 11:35; at 11:45 left W.S.W.; skirting the land, we arrived at 1:15 at Chatakoin, where M. de Muy, who was going to Detroit, had arrived a half-hour before me; at 4 o'clock he left, with his three canoes, to continue his route. M. de St.-Ours, who was the senior lieutenant commander at Chatakoin, handed over the command to me. M. du Buisson commanded at Lake Chatakoin, and M. de Carqueville on the hills on the other side of the little river which crosses the portage, while M. de Montigny Cournoyer was at Chatakoin, M. St.-Blain directing the carts on the portage, M. Godefroy at the little lake, M. Corbiere on the hills.

[June] 9th                      Sunday, M. de Rigauville arrived with twelve canoes from M. de Muy's Brigade. There was a light northeast wind. He sent out 47 men from my brigade to carry packages to the hills, where they were to remain and work under M. Carqueville. The remainder of my brigade was used to unload the five boats I had brought, to put one bark canoe in a safe place in the woods, and to put the goods they had brought into the warehouse. According to the report of the purser's steward, six barrels of pork had spoiled, and were tainting the warehouse. I had them taken out in a boat, and thrown into the water.

[June] 10th                     Monday, at 5 o'clock in the morning, I sent 150 men to the hills, carrying loads; at 4 o'clock in the afternoon M. de St.-Martin arrived. I turned the command over to him. He had brought most of M. Péan's canoes, which were to leave Niagara on the 11th of this month.

[June] 11th                     Tuesday, I sent the rest of my brigade to the hills, to be under M. de Carqueville's orders.

The men of M. Péan's Brigade carried loads to the hills. Six hundred packages still remained to complete the number of three thousand that had been ordered for the little lake. At noon M. Chabert arrived from Niagara with 11 horses; he had left three on the way.



A savage arrived at two o'clock with 2 horses. There were some horses at Chatakoin, but in such bad condition that they could only carry loads on their backs. The men had carried most of the packages which were at the little lake.

[June] 12th,                      Wednesday, M. Chabert was at the portage to have the horses he had brought transport the packages we needed at the little lake.

A canoe arrived with letters from Belle Rivière, addressed to M. de Carqueville. We sent to the hills for him, and he, with M. de St.-Martin, sent a canoe to meet M. Péan. They had sent two men by land to Presque Isle, but we did not know of this until after their departure. The wind fell in the evening, and it was calm during the night.

[June] 13th,                      Thursday, MM. du Buisson and Carqueville arrived at 10 o'clock in the morning with 250 men. The former told us that the letters of the day before were from M. de Contrecoeur who wrote to M. de Carqueville, whom he believed to be the only officer at Chatakoin, to speedily join him with 300 men, as there was no doubt that the English were marching to Belle Rivière in a large body, and that he had three letters from M. de Contrecoeur, commander at Fort Duquesne, for the general and one for M. Péan.

M. de Montigny received an order today from M. Péan to leave for the Miamis with his brigade, but first to go to Detroit to procure some pirogues.

M. de St.-Ours was supposed to wait at the entrance of the Rivière des Miamis with a bark canoe for the return of the detachment coming up the Rivière à la Roche from Belle Rivière, and to make the 'Demoiselle' portage to the Miamis, but he did not receive the order.

The courier who left the day before for Presque Isle was to inform them that M. de Carqueville would go that way with 300 men, and to tell them to have provisions ready for his trip by land to Fort Duquesne. To take that trip by land would not have been to my taste, as Fort Duquesne was not sufficiently stocked with food to supply 300 men coming in on them half starved, as they usually are after making the journey by land, burdening themselves as little as possible, and usually fasting the last days. I should have liked to send



those men in the pirogues made at Lake Chatakoin. If each man had taken only two months' supplies, it would have eased the situation at Fort Duquesne and put it in a better position to hold out longer, and to wait for any assistance that might be sent there.

The boats were made ready to transport the men to Presque Isle, agreeable to the decision that had been made. As M. de Contrecoeur had written to M. de Carqueville to leave 24 hours after the receipt of his letter, there was great confusion in getting the detachment together.

[June] 14th

Friday, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, two Nepissingue canoes arrived, bringing letters from M. Péan, to command M. de Carqueville not to go to Fort Duquesne by land, but to take pirogues to Lake Chatakoin and to load them to capacity with food. When the savages arrived, M. de Carqueville was embarking, since the 24 hours after the receipt of M. de Contrecoeur's letter had elapsed. M. de Montigny had orders to wait for M. Péan.

At 3 o'clock M. de Carqueville left for Lake Chatakoin with the detachment of 300 men, agreeable to the orders of M. Péan, to whom he had dispatched a courier to make known his objections to the designation of M. de Carqueville's detachment. I do not think he will heed them, as he knows that Fort Duquesne lacks food and supplies.

At 6 o'clock in the evening, M. de Villiers, captain, at the head of the Nepissingues and Algonkins, M. de Longueuil, commander, at the head of the Iroquois, M. de Montesson, lieutenant, at the head of the Abenakis, and M. de Longueuil, second ensign, with the Hurons of Lorette, arrived here. All the nations together numbered 120 to 130 men.

We learned that M. de Vaudreuil would not come out to Canada as general until next year, and that the King had given him a gratuity of 12,000 francs for the year 1754.

[June] 15th,

Saturday, at 11 o'clock in the morning M. Péan arrived, and I found him greatly changed; he told us of the betrayal of M. Jumonville. We worked at transporting loads across the portage. Since spring, one man was drowned while bringing horses from Presque Isle to Chatakoin, and one died of an illness.

[June] 16th

Sunday, M. Douville, lieutenant, departed to take command of Fort de la Presque Isle in place of M. de Courtemanche,

also a lieutenant, who was going back to Montreal, having asked to be relieved .

M. de Villiers and the other officers commanding the savages left for Fort Duquesne in bark canoes by the Lake Chatakoïn route. The detachment on the hills was sent back.

M. de St.-Blain was ordered to take over the command at Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf in place of M. le Borgne, who is to take a convoy of pirogues to Fort Duquesne.

M. de Carqueville departed from Lake Chatakoïn with 200 men, 40 middle-sized pirogues, with 229 packs loaded in them and in 13 other small boats.

M. de Surville, officer, left by way of Presque Isle to carry letters by land to the commander of Fort Duquesne. The camp was set up; the officers placed their tents at the head, M. Pean's brigade was placed in the second line, M. de Léry's in the third, that of St.-Ours in the fourth, de Montigny's in the fifth. The men were set to work placing provisions and merchandise in the sheds.

I made a plan for a powder magazine at the bottom of the hill. Squads of men took turns doing the work. It was 12 feet square, covered with earth, and the sides were banked with earth.

[June] 17th,

Monday, M. de Portneuf left to have some pirogues made in a pine grove at the lower end of Lake Chatakoïn; he had 63 men with him. We put 24 boats in the Rivière Chatakoïn, where there was only a foot of water. The boats were filled with water to keep them water-tight. We started to build three cabins at the head of the camp to serve as a hospital. I mounted a guard. They had erected a shanty for the officer and another for the guard. The officers leading the savages left Lake Chatakoïn for Fort Duquesne. A boat arrived from Presque Isle. M. Péan continued to be ill.

[June] 18th,

Tuesday, a boat came from Presque Isle bringing a forge; at 11 o'clock, it left with 120 packages we had loaded in it, one half being bags of flour and the other half barrels of pork.

They sent 19 bark canoes to Lake Chatakoïn, which were intended to go to Fort Duquesne. Six canoe repairmen followed to put them in condition at the portage.

M. Péan was still sick.

[June] 19th,                    Wednesday, Sieur Mauvide, surgeon, who had been sent for, arrived from Fort Duquesne. M. de Contrecoeur said that there had been no certain knowledge of M. de Jumonville's defeat, except what was told by a man named Mousseaux, who had escaped. The Loups reported that the English had built a house 40 leagues inland from the bank of the Belle Rivière where there were 400 men in garrison.

M. de Jonquières, captain, commanding at the mouth of Rivière au Boeuf, informed his brother, M. Chabert, that three savages had passed, carrying belts sent by the English to the Five Nations.

They asserted that Thaninhison was with the English, and chief of a party of savages who are serving them. This Thaninhison is a Teste Plate; he had been taken when very young by the Sonnonthouans who adopted him. He is highly regarded among the nations of the Belle Rivière, and is absolutely devoted to the English. It was he who came last year to Rivière au Boeuf. He talked there very boldly, and the report spread that he had killed M. de Jumonville, who was wounded, saying, "You are not yet dead, my father," and striking him several times with his tomahawk.

[June] 20th,                    Thursday, I asked M. Péan if I could go to Fort Duquesne to get the 30 bark canoes which M. du Buisson was to bring, if he was sick as reported. He said he needed me, and he had no orders to send me to Belle Rivière; but, if M. du Buisson were really ill, I should conduct the detachment intended for him. M. du Buisson arrived at noon, however, and took orders from M. Péan for Fort Duquesne.

The weather was warm, without wind. They carried the equipment of 12 bark canoes over the portage, and had the trees around the camp cut down, as they formed a border around it which would have placed us at a disadvantage in case of a surprise attack. M. de Courtemanche arrived from Presque Isle where he was formerly in command.

They sent to Lake Chatakoïn the bark canoes which were needed to complete the total of 30 which M. du Buisson was to take. The shed for the forge was finished, and the blacksmith was working in it.

The chaplain of Fort de la Presque Isle arrived, sick with fever.

[June] 21st,                    Friday, 100 men left for Chatakoïn, where they were to be placed in M. de Buisson's detachment, to whom I sent the roster. M. Péan, who felt worse, put me in charge of these details.



At 9 o'clock in the morning, the surgeons informed me that M. Péan was worse. I asked them separately their opinions regarding his condition, and decided to write the general about it. Two soldiers started for Niagara in a small bark canoe. I had three Canadians of my brigade embark, and wrote to M. de la Perrière, commander at Niagara, that if he was unable to send to Montreal after receiving my letter, to dispatch it immediately by the three men that I sent; the more so, as I had included a package from the commander at Fort Duquesne, addressed to the general. I had found it on M. Péan's table, where it had been for several days. I added that we had reason to think the general would approve of the steps we were taking to put him in a position to replace M. Péan or to recall him; in a word, to enable him to give positive orders for the success of his enterprises which a sick man is rarely in a condition to execute.

Copy of my letter to the general, dated this day:

Monsieur,

M. Péan has been ill for a long time, and now to such a degree that he takes little care of his affairs, having charged me with several details which I am performing in his place for the good of the service. I believed it very necessary to send a courier, without M. Péan's knowledge, to have the honor to give you an account of the situation. Sieur Viger, surgeon, who attended him at Niagara, says that he was comfortable from there to Chatakoin, that from the 17th to the 13th of this month he had an attack of fever lasting 4 1/2 hours, that the 19th, on the arrival of Sieur Mauvide, surgeon, he had a second attack followed by tension of the abdomen and headaches.

The 20th he was purged, but the fever returned at the same hour, 2 o'clock in the afternoon, it increased and developed into typhus or putrid fever with symptoms which Sieur Viger considers very dangerous. Sieur Mauvide thinks M. Péan's illness is an inflammation of the liver with the symptoms accompanying this illness, which will be long but not fatal. The patient has an inflammatory fever, great weakness, and is further weakened by a tertian fever which he has had a long time. Continual irritation has caused a kind of jaundice, so that he vomits quantities of bile without relief.



M. Péan profited by an interval of relief from fever the 19th of this month when he had the honor to give you an account of the present state of his arrangements. Since his letter, nothing new has happened. The detachment that M. du Euisson is to take to Fort Duquesne left this morning for Lake Chatakoin.

I have the honor to be with very profound respect,

Your very humble and very obedient servant.

( Signed ) LÉRY

At Camp Chatakoin, on the shore of Lake Erie, June 21, 1754.

The weather was fine, no wind.

[June] 22nd,                      Saturday, 4 boats left for Presque Isle, each loaded with 120 packages.

They sent 50 men to the hills to get some rolls of tobacco, and some packages of shoes, as too much had been carried up. M. de Saint-Blain left the hills, and went to Lake Chatakoin with 25 men to take over the command on M. du Euisson's departure. Four boats were loaded, each with 100 pieces of freight, to leave for Presque Isle the next day at daybreak. The horses which M. Chabert brought, were returned from the portage to the camp. Ten Mississagues came to join M. de Villiers. It rained during the morning; the wind northeast.

[June] 23rd,                      Sunday, it rained all day, and there was a strong northeast wind. The boats, prepared the day before, could not leave for Presque Isle. Wood was cut to build a house 20 feet square. M. Portneuf wrote that he did not think he had enough material to make many pirogues, that the pine wood he had seen was not good, and that he would visit the pine grove and would give an account of what it could furnish.

[June] 24th,                      Monday, at 7 o'clock in the morning, the 4 boats destined for Presque Isle departed; two also left for Niagara to get provisions.

M. de Courtemanche left for Montreal. He had the boats calked. M. du Buisson left Lake Chatakoin with 30 bark canoes, holding 8 men each, loaded with 1453 packages, and with a small boat made of planks. We took an inventory of what remained in the warehouse at Lake Chatakoin, there were 1060 pieces.

The boats which left for Presque Isle the 22nd of this month, arrived, bringing 80 guns, good and bad. They reported that while entering the port of Presque Isle on the day of their departure, they thought they would lose their lives and goods, although they had a tail wind, not too strong. I inquired of

those who had been there whether they could account for the danger the boats encountered landing at the fort. This harbor is said to be so snug that it seemed to have been made expressly to facilitate, more than any other, our communication with the Belle Rivière. I could learn nothing except that with a tail wind, or on the quarter, loaded vessels could not enter. I decided to find out for myself, if I should ever go there.

[June] 25th,           Tuesday, the boats that had gone to Presque Isle the day before, returned.

          We put 50 men in garrison at Lake Chatakoin.

          M. Chabert left for the Niagara portage with three boats, into which he loaded the harness for the horses sent by land to Niagara. He was commander of the little fort on the Niagara portage. A savage of the nation which lived there had been sent to Canaöagon to ask them to come and carry loads at Chatakoin; they might even bring their wives and children, who would be fed, over and above the pay they would get for the loads carried over the portage. Today five savages arrived, and said that others were coming. As the work had been done rapidly, only a few loads were left, and M. Jonquière persuaded them to go with him to Niagara where they would be well paid for work done on the portage. The messenger, who had been sent for the others, was given an entire suit of clothes. He was sent back to his village to tell them that if they came they would be given presents, and that the few loads left to be carried to Lake Chatakoin would be kept to give them work on their arrival.

[June] 26th,           Wednesday, a boat, commanded by a sergeant, was sent to the little Fort de Niagara, from which he was to bring back the three who had left yesterday.

          They continued calking the boats. M. Péan had me inspect them: I found one of them unfit for service, and had it taken apart to use for repairing the worst of them.

          Twenty-four men were ordered to go to Presque Isle the next day with 4 boats and a bark canoe to carry goods. The wind was west; the sun came out.

[June] 27th,           Thursday, a man left by land for Fort Duquesne to tell them not to send any one to Chatakoin for the pirogues, which were to go down to the fort loaded with munitions, as we had men enough to send them. However, if they were short of pro-

visions, and had nothing to fear from the enemy, they could send their men solely to avoid consumption of food by our detachment if they should go down, both during their stay at Fort Duquesne, and for their return trip. They would also find it an advantage considering that the food their own men would consume at Lake Chatakoïn and returning would not be taken from the supply at Fort Duquesne.

Two Frenchmen were sent to the nearest flat lands to the woodyard where the pirogues were being built. I wrote for M. Péan, who is still sick, asking M. Portneuf to inform me at once how far along he was with the construction of the pirogues, and to let me know exactly how many he could build in that pine woods.

M. Péan is living in the house, 20 feet square, which was finished yesterday.

We continued calking the boats and repairing the bark canoes.

It rained heavily during the night, causing the little Rivière Chatakoïn to rise fifteen inches.

The boats, made ready the day before to go to Presque Isle, did not leave as the wind was contrary.

[June] 28th,

Friday, the 4 boats and the bark canoe, fitted out the 26th, left for Presque Isle loaded with 395 packages of pork and flour. We had a letter from M. Portneuf at the boatyard, saying that on the 30th of this month he would have 60 pirogues completed, each one with a capacity of 25 to 30 packages. As M. du Buisson, who was taking 30 bark canoes to Fort Duquesne, needed men to help him through the flat country, boatbuilders were provided him; this would retard the completion of the work for several days. Some savages from Kanaögon carried the loads from the large lake to the small one. The wind was east and the weather fine.

[June] 29th,

Saturday, a boat arrived from Presque Isle with the 24 men who had left the day before in the 4 boats and the bark canoe. They had left their boats at the fort according to the orders they had received, since we had more boats and canoes at Chatakoïn than we needed.

We had several storms in the morning, southwest wind, bright sunshine.

[June] 30, Sunday, M. de Cournoyer left for Presque Isle with three boats, each one loaded with 100 packages. There was an off-shore wind at 10 o'clock. I had sent six men from my brigade in these boats, two of them carpenters, to construct a powder magazine at Fort de la Presque Isle, where there was none.

According to the inventory made today of food, war munitions, and merchandise, there should be in the warehouses at Presque Isle, including goods sent by M. de Cournoyer

-----	1605 packages
At little Lake Chatakoin -----	1060
At Camp Chatakoin -----	<u>1284</u>
	3949 packages

M. de Carqueville, who left for Fort Duquesne the 16th of this month, had in his pirogues ----- 229 packages

M. de Villiers and the other officers leading the savages on the 17th of the month---- 50 packages  
279 packages

M. du Buisson, in the bark canoes the 24th of the same ----- 1453

Sent to Fort Duquesne from June 16th to the 24th of said month ----- 1732 packages.

M. Péan had asked the commander of Fort Duquesne for orders regarding his future movements, and informed him that while awaiting them, he would get the pirogues ready to forward provisions to him.

M. Péan, who has not recovered his health, still lets me take care of the small details he had put in my charge. I fulfil these duties for the good of the service to the best of my ability, that is, with great care.

July 1754

[July] 1st, Monday at 9 o'clock in the morning, a messenger arrived from Niagara, bringing private letters. I received two from Mme. de Léry, who informed me that two houses, near the hospital in Quebec, had burned.

At 10 o'clock, twenty men were sent to repair the bridges of the Chatakoin portage, and to remove the trees which had fallen on the road.



We reviewed our detachment of 492 men.

Brigades:

M. Péan's-----	120 men
M. Léry's, to which they had added others-----	214
M. St.-Ours'-----	78)
M. Montigny's-----	80)
	<u>492 men</u>

Officers of the detachment from Chatakoin:

M. Péan, captain, aid-major, at Quebec-----	commander	1
M. St.-Martin, performing duties of major-----)		
M. Léry-----)		
M. St. Ours-----)	lieutenants	4
M. Montigny-----)		
M. Rigauville-----)		
M. des Meloises-----)		
M. Porneuf-----)	ensigns	5
M. St. Blain-----)		
M. Cournoyer-----)		
M. de Bonnecamp, Jesuit priest-----		1
M. Forget du Verger, priest of Foreign Missions-----		1
Four surgeons, a store-keeper, and an interpreter		<u>6</u>
		510 men

The men employed to make pirogues, to cart from Niagara to Chatakoin, from Chatakoin to Presque Isle and the garrison of Lake Chatakoin, are included in the 510 men noted in the above total.

[July] 2nd,

Tuesday, at 10 o'clock in the morning, a savage arrived from Lake Chatakoin, bringing a letter from the officer who commanded there, in which he informed me that last night one of his savages had perceived four men approaching his camp. When he went towards them, they ran away as fast as they could.

As M. Péan was too weak to write, I wrote his answer to the officer's letter, telling him to keep a careful lookout. I also informed M. Portneuf at the boatyards of what had been seen at Lake Chatakoin, and told him on behalf of M. Péan to keep all his men together in one boatyard, that it would be better to prolong the work than to expose themselves to danger, and that 40 men, commanded by a sergeant, were being sent to assist him to finish and bring in the pirogues.

At noon, M. de Cournoyer arrived; he had gone to Presque Isle on the 30th of last month with three boats. He left two of these at the fort, and brought back the men in the other,

M. du Buisson had taken 30 men with pirogues from M. Portneuf's boatyard to assist his bark canoes in the flat country below Kana8agon. It was to replace them that a sergeant with 40 men was sent off, as I related above.

[July] 3rd,

Wednesday, M. Portneuf wrote that M. Buisson had passed the flat country, and had returned the 19 pirogues and the thirty men lent him from the boatyard for his trip. There was a very strong west wind and not much sunshine.

[July] 4th,

Thursday, the sun shone all day, furious west wind.

[July] 5th,

Friday, M. Rigauville left to take over the command in place of M. Leborgne, who was there and who had been relieved by M. St. Blain, who could not take up his post at present, being at Lake Chatakoin where he would be in charge of the horses for several more days. M. Rigauville also had his orders to serve as third in command at Detroit.

The messenger, who had brought letters from Niagara the 1st of July, left. Fifteen pirogues sent by M. Portneuf, arrived at the camp at Lake Chatakoin. The men who brought them went back to get more.

At a quarter past 11 in the evening, the sentinel on the portage road saw a man approach the camp. After calling out three times "Who goes there?" he fired his gun, and ran shouting to the guardhouse, where I was. I had the guard take up arms, and sent a corporal to the sentinel who reported seeing a man,

as I have just mentioned. I went to the place, but it was impossible to see, the night being very dark. Besides, the sentinel said the man had gone. At the sound of the gun, all the officers, as well as the entire camp, came. We concluded that they were spies sent out by the English, perhaps the same who had appeared at the camp on Lake Chatakoïn, on the night of the first or second of this month.

As M. Péan was still very much indisposed, we did not wake him. I doubled the sentinels of my guard, and M. St. Martin, major, ordered frequent rounds the rest of the night.

[July] 6th,

Saturday, the wind in the west, very strong all day, and the sun appeared.

At 11 o'clock at night, three boats, commanded by a sergeant, arrived from the small fort with 285 packages, altogether. They had left here the 25th of last month, and the sergeant the 26th. He had left his boat at the small fort, as it was in no condition to make the voyage. The calkers at that fort were to repair it.

[July] 7th,

Sunday, at noon a messenger arrived from Belle Rivière. M. de Contrecoeur wrote that M. de Villiers had left Fort Duquesne the 28th of June with 700 Frenchmen and savages to attack the 400 English who were marching on Belle Rivière. He enclosed the deposition of an English deserter.

Denis Kaninguen, deserted from the English camp yesterday morning, arrived at Fort Duquesne today, June 30th.

He reports that the English army is composed of 430 men, including 30 Indians.

That they learned that 300 French and 400 Indians left the French camp, which made them decide to retrace their steps to their fort in a meadow the length of a rifle shot, that the English have no food, having only sixteen cows and ten oxen left, some of which they eat every day, without bread. Every other day ten to twelve sacks of flour reach them.

The government of Philadelphia did not want to furnish men to make war on the French, and South Carolina furnished only ten soldiers, Virginia gave three hundred men. He reports that M. de Jumonville was killed by an English detachment which surprised him. This officer had advanced to communicate his orders

to the English commander, in spite of the musket-fire the commander had aimed at him. On hearing the reading of it, he withdrew to his men whom he ordered to fire on the French. M. de Jumonville was wounded, and had fallen. Thaninhison, an Indian, came to him and said, " You are not dead yet, my father," and struck him several blows with his hatchet, which killed him.

M. Drouillon, second ensign of M. de Jumonville, with all the rest of the detachment of thirty men, was seized. MM. de Boucherville and Du Sable, cadets, and Laforce, storekeeper, are among the prisoners. There were ten or twelve Canadians killed, and the prisoners were sent to the city of Virginia.

The English had only very little food.

He reports that if the French do not go into English territory, the English will no longer want to come to the French.

On leaving the English camp, the said Denis Kaninguen was pursued by a horseman whose thigh he broke with a rifle shot. He took this man's horse, and came at full speed to the French camp.

The commander of Belle Rivière wrote that he thought M. de Villiers would engage the enemy in combat the first of this month. It was reported in the camp that M. de la Chauvignerie, officer with the Chasannons, had been forced to leave their village with two French traders named Babis, since the Chasannons had frequently threatened to kill them.

They say also that the savages of Belle Rivière had killed and scalped two Englishmen.

We also learned that a man and woman of the Loup nation had been killed and scalped between Fort Duquesne and the Rivière au Boeuf. They blame the Saguanan nations for it. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, M. Péan sent a trader, named Normand, to Montreal. He had come to the little Lake Chatakoin with some goods, the greater part of which we took for the king. He entrusted him with letters for the general of Fort Duquesne, so we profited by this opportunity to write.

At 6 o'clock in the evening, two savages arrived from M. de Jonquière's, at the lower end of the Rivière au Boeuf, with a sick soldier whom they had brought in a pirogue. Each of the two savages was given eight beaver skins' worth of merchandise.



The two savages reported that the governor of Philadelphia, whom the Iroquois call Assaregocha, the Great Saber, had had fifty men of the Iroquois nations killed. We had previously had the same news, without any more certainty than its confirmation. We sent 35 sacks of flour by these savages to Lake Chatakoin.

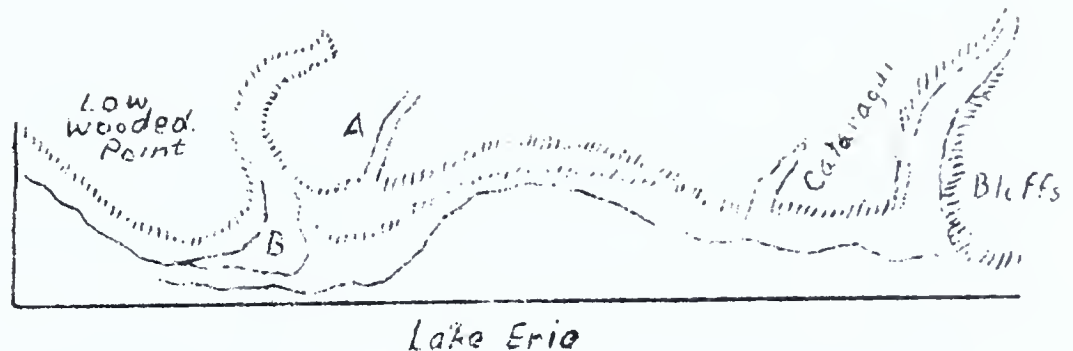
The road from Lake Erie to Lake Chatakoin, commonly called the Chatakoin portage, seemed preferable to that from Presque Isle to the Rivière au Boeuf, according to what I had heard about the difficulty and the length of the latter. I had Chatakoin portage measured with an eighteen foot pole by a sergeant and three soldiers, working under my observation. I intended to do the same thing when I got to Presque Isle to find out the difference in the two routes.

The length of the Chatakoin portage, measured from Lake Erie to Lake Chatakoin, following the usual route and marking in detail the distances of the most important places of that portage:

Namely	Perches	Feet	Inches
From Lake Erie at the point near the cliff where the little Rivière de Chatakoin comes in, to the bank of the river which crosses the portage--	780		
Length of hill to be descended -----	10		
Height of the said hill -----	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	3
Width of the river -----	3		
From the said river to the foot of a hill -----	21		
Length of the said hill -----	3		
Height -----		7	6
To the foot of another hill -----	5		
Length of said hill -----	9		
Height -----	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	

	Perches	Feet	Inches
To the foot of another hill-----	40		
Length of said hill-----	5		
Height-----			15
To the foot of a second hill-----	9		
Length of said hill-----	3		
Height-----		5	6
To the foot of a third hill-----	50		
Length of the said hill-----	4		
Height-----		6	6
Length of the ascent-----	287		
Height-----	5	6	6
Length of the descent-----	8		
Height-----		16	
To the shed at little lake-----	1,321		
Descending a hill, length-----	1		
Descending to the bank of the little lake-----		12	
Reaching the edge of the water---	5		
<hr/>			
2,564 perches, 18 ft.			

By the different measures given above, it is apparent that the Chatakoin portage, by the route we have used this year, is about the same as the old route, and is 3 leagues, 4 arpents and 4 perches long. Counting the league as 84 arpents, the arpent as 10 perches, and the perch as 18 feet, official measure, this makes 2,520 toises.



From Chatakoïn on the shore of Lake Erie-

- (A) portage road which passes through the camp,
- (B) Rivière de Chatakoïn.

[ July ] 8th,      Monday a boat departed laden with packs of merchandise for Fort de la Presque Isle.

A sergeant left with six boats for little Fort de Niagara, from which he was to bring provisions.

140 sacks of flour were sent to little Lake Chatakoïn, as well as seven packs of merchandise and shoes.

Three boats arrived from little Fort de Niagara, loaded with 270 packages of provisions, and commanded by a cadet, who had left the camp the 24th of last month. M. de Courtemanche had embarked in one.

[ July ] 9th,      Tuesday, 150 bags of flour were sent to little Lake Chatakoïn. M. Portneuf arrived at the camp. He had brought with him from the little lake the total amount of pirogues made, which was 79, each able to carry from 30 to 35 packages. He said his boatyard was three leagues below the mouth of Lake Chatakoïn, at the end of the flat country. At 7 o'clock in the evening, a boat arrived from little Fort de Niagara, loaded with 100 packages.

Although this journal cannot give all the details regarding the Belle Rivière, I believe it necessary, however, to give the names of the officers who were served at Fort Duquesne and other dependent posts.

List of officers now on the Belle Rivière:

M. Pécaudy de Contrecoeur, commander general -----)		
)		
M. Coulon de Villiers, commanding the Nepissingues)		
)		
M. Chabert de Jonquières, commander at the village)	captains	5
of the Rivière au Boeuf-----)		
)		
M. Lemercier, commander of the artillery-----)		
)		
M. Lemoine de Longueuil, commanding the Iroquois -)		
M. de Muy-----)		
)		
M. Gaspé-----)		
)		
M. du Buisson-----)	lieutenants	5
)		
M. Carqueville-----)		
)		
M. Montesson, leading the Abenakis-----)		
M. de la Chauvignerie-----)		
)		
M. de Jumonville de Villiers, said to have		
been killed-----)		
)		
M. Bayeul-- -----)		
)		
M. Céloron-----)	ensigns	8
)		
M. Godefroy-----)		
)		
M. Corbière-----)		
)		
M. Bleury de Sabrevois-----)		
)		
M. Surville de Richerville-----)		
M. du Sable'-----)		
)		
M. Rimbeault-----)		
)		
M. Longueuil-----)	ensigns	5
)		
M. La Saussaie-----)		
)		
M. Drouillon, said to be a prisoner-----)		

---

23 officers



List of officers continued:

M. Douville, commander of Fort de la)	
Presque Isle---	)
M. Le Borgne, commander of Fort de )	
la Rivière au Boeuf-)	lieutenants 2
M. Péan's detachment had-----	10
Employed on the Belle Rivière officers	35

It is estimated that there are at present on the Belle Rivière, not including M. Péan's detachment nor the garrisons of Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf and Fort de la Presque Isle, 1150 men of regulars and militia.

[July] 10th,

Wednesday, M. Péan received a letter from M. de Jonquière who is on the lower part of Rivière au Boeuf, in which he said that he thought fifteen Chaudon and Iroquois families were about to settle at his post.

M. Le Borgne, former commander of Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf, arrived to take a convoy of pirogues to Fort Duquesne.

Twelve Sonnontouans, coming from war with the Têtes Plates, arrived with one scalp.

The boat which arrived the day before from Niagara left for Presque Isle with the same load.

Twenty-four soldiers departed for little Lake Chata-koin.

M. de St.-Blain came from Lake Chata-koin with all the horses and harness which were on the portage.

M. Péan prepared to leave the next day, as his health was improving. He was going to set up a camp at Presque Isle, and left me at Chata-koin to evacuate the post and send out a convoy of pirogues for Fort Duquesne.

[July] 11th, Thursday, the men who were intended to take the pirogues to Fort Duquesne left with M. Le Borgne, who sent them with carts to take bags of flour to the little lake.

Wind from the west detained M. Péan, who did not leave.

[July] 12th, Friday, same wind as the day before but stronger. I profited by M. Péan's sojourn to go send off M. Le Borgne. I left at five in the morning, and arrived at the little lake at 7 o'clock.

By one o'clock all the pirogues, 70 in number, were loaded with 1945 packages, and 215 men were to manage them. Both general and detailed lists were made of the loads; and the utensils for the little lake camp were loaded in the carts. I wrote to the commander of Fort Duquesne to whom I sent a statement of the goods loaded in the pirogues, I wished M. Le Borgne, who left at two o'clock, a successful journey. As soon as I had placed 30 small plank boats and pirogues, which could be used on occasion, at the edge of the wood to the right of the camp, I left and reached camp at 4:30 in the afternoon. I found the portage road good. At a small expense it could be greatly improved, although it would be necessary to relocate it in some places. The hills are in good shape, but the road needs to be widened and graded, which is easy to do.

A savage told me that a shorter road could be made from Lake Erie to Lake Chatakoïn by going toward the Anse aux Feuilles and crossing straight to the latter lake. I noticed, in fact, our camp was about a quarter of a league from the end of the lake. This with the depth of the bay, where the portage to Lake Erie might begin, would make the portage a league and a half shorter, as the savage who gave me this idea had said. I regretted that our approaching departure did not permit me to examine the terrain between Lake Erie and Lake Chatakoïn. It is true that a short distance from the latter, we could see the great lake, which did not seem far off.

Sketch of the end of the little lake where our camp was in 1739.

(A) portage road and position of the storehouse.

(B) where the camp was.

(C) where the bakery was.

(D) landing where the pirogues were.



[July] 13th,                    Saturday, there was a very strong northwest wind.

M. Saint-Blain left by land to take some horses to Fort de la Presque Isle.

The wind prevented M. Péan's departure.

[July] 14th,                    Sunday, at 5:30 in the morning, M. Péan left with 18 bark canoes, carrying 131 men and 530 packages of provisions and merchandise.

I remained in command at Chatakoin to have the provisions, tools, carts, canoes and boats removed from the camp. M. de Saint-Ours, lieutenant, and M. Cournoyer, ensign, remained to lead the brigades I would send. Not having sufficient men to accomplish this in a single trip, M. Péan was to send back the men he had taken.

M. Forget du Verger, priest, remained to serve as chaplain to twenty invalids, whom I was to send off the next day.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, M. Rocquetaillade and a man named Chevalier, a traveller, arrived from Montreal, which they had left twenty days previously. I received two letters from Madame de Léry.

According to the account I have kept of the packages of provisions, merchandise and war munitions sent to Fort Duquesne by the Chatakoin route from June 16th, when M. de Carqueville left with the first convoy, to July 12th, when M. Le Borgne set out with the last, they amount to 3,677 packages.

[July] 15th,                    Monday, the rain, falling in torrents, prevented my sending the sick men to Presque Isle.

At 5 o'clock four boats arrived from Presque Isle with 100 men.

The rain continued to fall. Nevertheless, I had bags of shot and barrels of flour taken to the water's edge to facilitate loading the next morning. I did the same with the carts.

At 8 in the evening, ten boats arrived from little Fort Niagara loaded with 600 packages, altogether. These boats had left Chatakoïn on the 8th of this month.

[July] 16th,

Tuesday, it rained until noon, when I sent out the six canoes, which came from Niagara the day before, with the same load to Presque Isle. At one o'clock the boat, carrying the sick men, departed. M. Forget du Verger, priest, followed them in his canoe.

At 5 o'clock M. de St.-Ours and M. Cournoyer left with fifteen bark canoes, each carrying twenty packages.

I ordered the sergeant, who was to take the boats to Presque Isle, to be ready to load at daybreak the next day.

At half-past five M. Du Sablé, ensign, arrived from Fort Duquesne. He brought news to the general of the blow we had given the English at Fort de Necessité where the English had retired, and on the morning of the attack, had begun an advance retrenchment. M. de Villiers, who commanded the French, did not give them time to finish it, having attacked a small corps of troops in front of the fort at ten o'clock in the morning of July 3rd. After some musket-fire on each side, the English withdrew into their fort where there were 500 men, and nine pieces of ordnance mounted ready to fire. There was continual firing on both sides until seven o'clock in the evening, when the French commander learned that the savages were going to leave him the next day. He sent an officer to tell the English that he had not come intending to make war on them, as the two nations were at peace, but to obtain satisfaction for their assassination of M. de Jumonville, officer of the King's troops, and the subjects who had perished with him, as well as an officer and several Frenchmen whom they were holding prisoner; and to ask them to retire from the lands of the King of France. He said he was disposed to hear what they had to say, but if there was any delay, perhaps there would not be time to check the ferocity of the savages, once they were aroused. Whereupon the English asked to capitulate at once, and M. de Villiers having prepared the articles of capitulation, they were signed in duplicate by both parties on one of the posts of the French blockhouse, at 8 o'clock in the evening, without any difficulty from the English regarding the term, assassination, nor concerning the ownership of the lands of the Belle Rivière by the King of France.

It is estimated that the English had 50 killed and 60 wounded; the French lost three men and had twenty wounded.



They claim that when they were signing the capitulation, they heard drums of an English detachment, coming to the assistance of Fort de Necessité. This detachment withdrew at once.

Following is a copy of the capitulation:

Capitulation granted by M. de Villiers de Coulon, captain, commander of His Christian Majesty's troops, to the commander of the English troops now in Fort de Necessité which has been built on the King's lands.

July third, one thousand seven hundred fifty-four, at eight o'clock in the evening.

Our intention has never been to disturb the peace and harmony which reign between the two friendly princes, but only to avenge the assassination of one of our officers, bearer of a summons, and of his escort, and also to prevent any establishment on the lands of the King, my master.

For these reasons we are pleased to show mercy to all the English in the said fort on the following conditions:

#### Article One

We allow the English commander to retire peaceably with all his garrison to his own territory, and promise him that no harm will be done him by our Frenchmen, and we will restrain the savages with us as much as possible.

#### Article Two

That we grant them honors of war; they may leave with drum beating and with a small piece of ordnance, as proof that we are treating them as our friends.

#### Article Three

That as soon as the articles are duly signed, they will strike the English flag.

#### Article Four

That tomorrow at daybreak a French detachment will come to march the soldiers out, and to take possession of the fort.

### Article Five

That as the English have only a few horses and oxen, they will be free to put their belongings in a hiding place, and return for them when they get their horses. For this purpose they may leave any number of guards they wish, on condition that they give their word of honor not to work on any establishment in this place nor this side of the mountains for a year counting from to-day.

### Article Six

That the English have an officer, two cadets and, in general all the prisoners they seized at the assassination of M. de Jumonville, and they promise to return them safely as far as Fort Duquesne on the Belle Rivière. As security for these articles as well as for this treaty, M. Jacob Vannebranne and Robert Stobo, both captains, will remain as hostages until the arrival of the above mentioned French and Canadians.

We put ourselves under obligation, on our side, to give an escort to return the two officers in safety, who promise us our Frenchmen in two and a half months at the latest.

Made in duplicate on one of the posts of our blockhouse this day and year.

Signed:

JAMES MACKAY,  
G<sup>L</sup> WASHINGTON,  
COULON DE VILLIERS

The day after the capitulation, the English evacuated the fort. When they had gone out, the savages raised a war-cry and pretended to fall upon the English, which frightened them so much that they left their baggage and set off toward their own territory. The savages seized their flags and some prisoners which they were made to give up at once. The savages took twenty scalps from the dead whom the English had not buried. They claim that Thaninhisson and his band were in this fort, but that he had escaped in the night with some French deserters who were there also.

I was informed that M. de Contrecoeur wrote to M. Péan that the savages of the Belle Rivière had given them a belt so that the nations of the Détroit Erié, [ the Erie straits ], might not go to Belle Rivière; M. Contrecoeur wrote also that at least he did not want them to have a sufficient number of French there to over-awe them.

At half-past six, M. Du Sablé left for Montreal, I gave him a man to assist his crew.

[July] 17th,                      Wednesday, at 7 o'clock, seven boats left loaded with carts, harness equipment and barrels of flour.

At 10 o'clock, I sent off Laforce, the store-keeper, with two bark canoes containing the remainder of the merchandise and parcels of clothes left by the soldiers and militia of the detachment, who had taken provisions to Fort Duquesne.

Two savages arrived from Belle Rivière with two horses they were planning to use for carrying goods over the Chatakoïn portage. I gave them food, and sent them to Presque Isle.

I remained with 30 men, 21 bark canoes, and four boats. At 9:30 in the evening M. de Repentigny, captain of the Louisbourg company, arrived from Montreal with the returning men whom I had sent to the general June 21st, to inform him of M. Péan's illness. I received a letter from M. Duquesne which, in short, informed me that he saw I was seeking to change my destination, that if he sent me to Detroit it was because of the special interest he took in my welfare, and that I could be sure that I should be relieved next year. But I was not aware of his plans, and he took a round about way to do me a service, since I was prevented from carrying in the canoes the necessary provisions for my subsistence at this post, where the King gives nothing and where I was even told that nothing would be sent up to me in the merchant canoes which usually go to Detroit. I took his letter as empty promises, and planned to reply to him at the first opportunity to express my gratitude, as there was nothing else I could do.

M. de Repentigny says that the commander of Louisbourg wrote to M. Duquesne that he had had news that the English were sending 6000 men to Belle Rivière and that, according to other information, M. Duquesne was sending M. de Vassan with 100 men to defend Fort St. Frédéric. I learned of the death of M. St. George de Cabanac, captain, commanding at Fort de Cataracoui, called Fort Frontenac.

I received two letters from Mme. de Léry.

[July] 18th,

Thursday, at 5:30 in the morning, M. de Renentigny departed for Presque Isle. I gave him two men to help paddle the canoes.

Seven men arrived from M. de Jonquière's with a pirogue loaded with eighteen packages, which he had left at little Lake Chatakoin; I gave provisions for ten days to five men who were to return to the lower end of Rivière au Boeuf after taking their loads to the shore of Lake Erie.

He expected M. le Borgne today at Belle Rivière; the latter had left the little lake portage the afternoon of the 12th of this month. At ten o'clock in the evening, a sergeant, with 100 men in four boats, arrived from Presque Isle to complete the evacuation of Camp Chatakoin which is situated at 42 degrees 18 minutes north latitude.

[July] 19th,

Friday, at daybreak, I began to have the boats loaded with the remaining carts, barrels of bacon and flour and all the equipment worth taking. I put 15 packages in each bark canoe, and at 7:26 I set out with seven boats and 21 bark canoes. The weather was calm. Our course was S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 8:55 W.S.W.; at 9:06 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.; at 9:40 passed the cliffs; at 11:00 passed Gros Morne Pellée W.S.W.; we sighted Presque Isle after passing this bluff; at 12:31 a stream; at 12:58 a stream, at 1:42 a stream; at 2:00 arrived at Fort de la Presque Isle, which is situated at 42 degrees 9 minutes north latitude.

M. de Portneuf left at 3 o'clock for the Rivière au Boeuf to have some pirogues made.

Some Mississegues from Lake Ontario came to greet M. Péan, and to tell him they were going to war; this fact was not mentioned when we answered and told them to go to Fort Duquesne to see the commander.

I learned that M. Roctailade, who had gone to Chatakoin the 14th of this month, had brought letters from the General to M. Péan in reply to the one he had written the 13th of the said month from Rivière a l'Aile. He heartily approved of the course M. Péan had followed, and M. Duquesne said he would have been displeased had he acted otherwise. He also informed him of his new plans, which fitted in perfectly with all M. Péan had done up to the present time, and of which he had given an account in his letter of the 13th from the Rivière a l'Aile.



The general likewise approved of M. de Contrecoeur, and instructed him that the treachery of the English against M. Villiers de Jumonville should not go unpunished.

M. Péan told me that on the evening of the 17th, he had sent M. de Montigny to Detroit with two canoes to let them know at that post that the detachment was to come there, and one of his two canoes was to go to Michillimakinac to inform them that they would go there, too.

The letters brought by M. de Repentigny were dated July 1st. They told M. Péan to proceed to Montreal as soon as he received the letter, if he was still sick. If, however, the surgeon found he had recovered his health enough to be in no danger of a relapse, he would be very glad if he would complete his rounds; but in case he was unable to do so, he was to send orders to M. de Villiers to make the trip in his place.

In case M. Péan remained, it was M. de Repentigny's duty to assist him in work to be done to provision Fort Duquesne, Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf and Fort de la Presque Isle, such as transportation from one fort to another, going back and forth from the little Fort de Niagara to Presque Isle, having the roads repaired, and constructing pirogues at Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf. If M. Péan should go to Montreal, or on a journey on the lakes, M. de Repentigny was to take over the command and inspection of Fort de la Presque Isle and Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf, under the orders of the commander of Fort Duquesne to whom he would give orders considered necessary to the good of the service, and he was to conform to the decisions of M. de Contrecoeur, commander of that fort.

M. de Repentigny had brought many letters for the commander of Fort Duquesne. This is all I could learn, with the exception that the general said he would send him M. de Ligneris, a captain, at the end of autumn, and would leave him free to choose among his officers those he wanted for his garrison.

[July] 20th,                      Saturday, M. Péan inspected the soldiers and militia at the fort to choose those fit to make the journey by way of the straits of Michilimaquinac, and to descend the great Rivière des Outa8ais.

The Mississagues from Lake Ontario, who had greeted M. Péan the day before, left for Fort Duquesne.

[July] 21st, Sunday, 90 men left to work on the portage road with 14 who had been building bridges there since the 16th of this month.

Twelve men from my brigade went to Presque Isle to make hay.

At 6 o'clock in the evening, M. de Gaspé arrived from Fort Duquesne. He had left his detachment at the Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf, where he had arrived in viroques with 150 men, twenty of whom were sick.

[July] 22nd, Monday, M. Péan sent six men in a bark canoe to carry letters to the general. I took advantage of this opportunity to answer the one he had written me, which I received at Chatakoin the 18th of this month.

Monsieur,

I received the letter you did me the honor of writing. If I asked for a change in my destination, it was only because of the news we had then from Belle Rivière.

I have not hesitated, sir, to request M. Péan to employ me there so that I may merit further advancement.

The interest you were pleased to take in my welfare makes me sacrifice cheerfully the business which requires my presence in Quebec, and I shall neglect nothing to prove myself worthy during my sojourn at the garrison to which you have appointed me. I should have gone when I received your letter if M. Péan had not left me at Chatakoin to transport to Presque Isle the goods which remained there at his departure, and if he had not retained me for service in his detachment as far as Detroit.

I have the honor to thank you, sir, for the promise you were good enough to make to relieve me next spring.

I have the honor to be with profound respect, sir, your very humble and very obedient servant.

(Signed) LÉRY.

At Fort de la Presque Isle, July 21, 1754.

M. de St.-Blain left to take command at Rivière au Boeuf.

M. de Gaspé's detachment arrived under M. de Surville's command.

[July] 23rd

Tuesday, M. Péan reviewed M. Gaspé's detachment, and selected from it the men necessary for his tour of inspection. It rained in torrents almost all day. The wind was from the northeast, and the force with which the waves broke at the entrance to the harbour convinced me that canoes entering with the wind following or on the quarter risked being destroyed. When we had left Chatakoin to go to Presque Isle, I found the channel smaller and more shallow than I had been told.

[July] 24th,

Wednesday, I left for Rivière au Boeuf, M. Péan told me to keep an eye on the work being done on the road, which I did both going and coming. Four soldiers followed me with an 18-foot pole, with which they measured the portage road. I found the Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf very small, and it could have been placed  $4\frac{1}{2}$  arpents nearer, as will be easily seen by the accompanying sketch of the river.

The length of the portage from Fort de la Presque Isle to Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf, showing the distance of the most important places and bridges already built:

(See illustration on page forty-six)

<u>Namely</u>	Perches	Feet
From Fort de la Presque Isle to the 1st bridge----	280	
Length of the bridge-----	3	
To a 2nd bridge-----	53	
To a hill-----	1204	
Height of said hill-----		9
Length of said hill-----	3	
To another hill-----	20	
Height of said hill-----		8
Length of said hill-----	3	
To the large hill of the Rivière au Gravois-----	108	
Height of said hill-----		13

	Perches	Feet
Length of said hill -----	3	
Length of the bridge -----	8	
To the river -----	20	
Width of the river -----	4	
To the small bridge -----	13	
Length of said bridge -----	1	
To another bridge -----	329	
Length of said bridge -----	3	4
To the bridge at the shed -----	147	
Length of said bridge -----	2	4
To the small camp -----	1400	
To the large camp -----	325	
Length of the bridge at the large camp ----	2	
To another -----	3	
Length of said bridge -----	1	14
To another bridge -----	200	
Length of said bridge -----	1	9
To another bridge -----	65	
Length of said bridge -----	2	
To another -----	447	
Length of said bridge -----		13
To the turn -----	146	
To reach the fort, skirting the Rivière au Boeuf -----	43 4841	<u>8</u>



By the various measurements given above, it is apparent that the portage from Presque Isle to Rivière au Boeuf, from the bastion of one fort to the other by the wagon road, totals:

Leagues	Arpents	Perches	Feet
5 3/4	1	1	8

A league is figured as 84 arpents, an arpent as ten perches of 18 feet, official measure, which makes 2520 toises.

I shall not dwell on the nature or condition of the terrain of this portage. I believe, however, that to render it practicable from Rivière aux Gravois to within 190 toises of the Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf, it will be necessary to bridge it all along. I am aware that, in this kind of road, there are many places where one could not drain off the water without considerable work. M. de Rigauville went to resume his place at the camp.

[July] 25th,

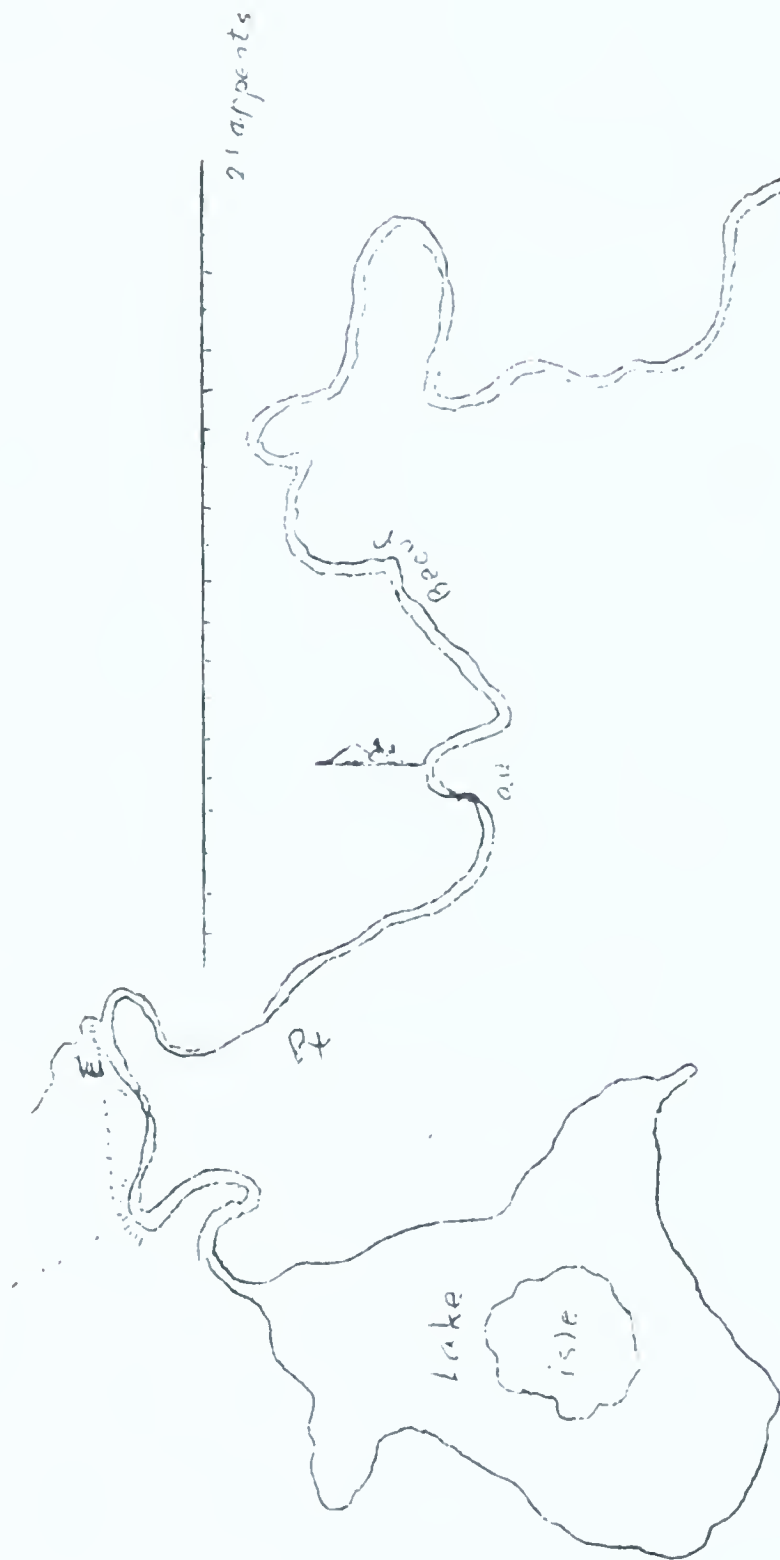
Thursday, I left the Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf at seven o'clock in the morning, and could not reach Fort de la Presque Isle until eleven, so bad was the road, although I was on horseback, and spurred on my horse. I realized that the ground was marshy, but by means of the bridges now being built, it will be passable for a time.

A boat left for Montreal with twenty-five sick persons and convalescents.

Two Frenchmen, who had left Presque Isle the 15th of this month to carry letters to Fort Duquesne, arrived at 7 o'clock in the evening.

M. de Contrecoeur wrote that the general council of the nations of Belle Rivière, had not been held, that he was waiting for the chiefs of one of these nations, that our domiciliated savages were tired of waiting for this meeting, and were to leave at once for their villages.

In a council that was held, at which the two English officers taken as hostages were present, our domiciliated savages had said to them, "Our father Onontio had sent us here to discuss matters peacefully. On our arrival, we learned of the treachery and assassination committed against a French chief; on hearing this news, we raised the war-cry to avenge him, you know what happened. If the English wish to disturb the peace, and cause trouble by seizing the land



of Onontio, our father, they will rue it, because we will turn on them. This time is nothing; we are only old men, but we have warriors and allies who can ably assist us."

M. de Contrecoeur stated also that he was sending back the Frenchmen, keeping only 300; that our domiciliated Indians planned to leave at Fort Duquesne four men of each nation, who would be relieved by others next winter.

[July] 26th, Friday, twenty men from my brigade left to work on the portage road. One of my barrels of wine was used to fill the others, because the extreme heat, to which they had been exposed since our departure from Montreal, had caused them to leak.

[July] 27th, Saturday, M. Carqueville arrived at 6 o'clock in the evening. He had left his detachment at the Fort de la Rivière au Boeuf. It consisted of 190 men who had come up the Rivière au Boeuf in 17 pirogues. It rained all day.

[July] 28th, Sunday, M. de Carqueville's detachment arrived, M. Péan reviewed them, as he had done the others, to select the men he considered suitable to make the inspection trip with him. It rained all night.

[July] 29th, Monday, twenty-seven canoes were made ready, with which M. Péan was determined to leave on the 30th, knowing that the voyageurs he had been expecting for a long time would not come until M. le Mercier, who was keeping them, arrived. As the season advanced, he feared with reason that he would be kept waiting too long. M. de Carqueville remained to bring the best he could find of the men who were to come from Fort Duquesne.

[July] 30th, Tuesday, left Presque Isle at 4:30 in the morning:

M. Péan, captain, aid-major at Quebec ----)	commander	1
M. St.-Martin, acting as major -----)		
M. de Léry -----)	lieutenants	3
M. St.-Ours -----)		

M. Rigauville-----)		
M. des Meloises-----)		
M. de Portneuf-----)	ensigns	4
M. Cournoyer-----)		
Father Bonecamp, Jesuit-----		1
M. Forget Duverger, Priest of the Foreign Missions----		1
M. Mauvide-----)		
M. Viger-----)	surgeons	3
M. Garon-----)		
M. Laforce-----	store-keeper	1
M. Constant Vieu, interpreter for the Ottawas, Sauteurs, etc.----		1
27 canoes with 10 men each-----		<u>270</u>
		285 men

Each canoe was loaded with 25 packages, most of them food

At 5 o'clock, doubled the point of Presque Isle which forms a half circle. At 5:12 made the half circle, [course]



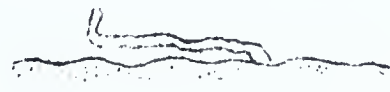
W.N.W.; at 5:24, W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.; at 5:29 W.S.W.; at 5:39 S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.;  
at 5:40 S.W.; at 5:46 S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 5:52 stopped; left at 6:00;



at 6:11 S.S.W.; at 6:13 the little clearing, visible from the fort; at 6:45 S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.; at 6:53 S.W.; at 7:00 end of Presque Isle, S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 7:12 W.S.W.; we were rowing at the rate of 46 strokes per minute; at 7:13 point after Presque Isle, after said point S.W. to anchor at 7:27 S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 7:53 W.S.W.; stopped at 7:45; left at 8:02 point back of which is a small river S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 8:32 stream; at 9:35 W.S.W.; at 9:50 S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W. Rivière à la Barbue, sketch of the said river, stopped at 10:00; left, rowing 46 strokes per minute. The shore is high here and the beach narrow, poor land, being yellow and sandy near the surface. Below the yellow earth is iron-colored clay. At 10:37 stopped to talk to savages in two canoes; left at 10:45, rowing 47 strokes per minute; at 10:53 small river whose entrance is obstructed, diagram added at 10:45; at 11:00 S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 11:12, at 11:27 mouth of a little river, diagram added;



at 11:37 point, here we proceeded S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W. to reach the end of the cove; at 12:05 mouth of a small river, diagram added, W.S.W.; at 12:15 point S.W.; at 12:20 Rivière à la Carpe, went ashore at said river for dinner, diagram of said river,

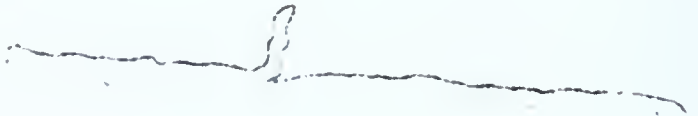


at 1:07 departed S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.; at 1:54 W.S.W.; at 3:00 o'clock small stream, whose mouth is stopped up, diagram added.

At that time we were rowing 45 strokes a minute; at 4:02 river, diagram added, W.S.W.;



at 4:54 small river, diagram added,



Here we were rowing  
48 strokes a minute;  
at 5:43 river, sketch  
added;

at 6:16 camped near a small  
swamp, diagram added.



Our oarsmen, who had gone hunting, heard rifle shots in the depth of the woods. We judged that there were savages hunting, and mounted guard. About midnight, two squaws came to the camp to tell us they were camped in a meadow, about half a league in the woods; that the next day their husbands would come to greet the French chiefs, and perhaps bring them some fresh meat, if they could kill anything in the morning.

[July] 31st,

Wednesday, we were detained by a strong northeast wind. At seven o'clock in the morning, a Huron savage came to see the commander, who gave him a drink of brandy and a white blanket. Afterward, we told him the news of Belle Rivière, that the English were no longer there, and how they had been driven away. He seemed delighted at what we told him, and asked us where we were going. We told him we were going to Detroit and Michilimaquinac to attend to Onontio's affairs, to carry his message, with clothes for the women, children and warriors, and to have them drink a draught of milk from their father. He seemed disappointed that he was not going with us to the fete. He promised to bring us a deer the next day, which he said were plentiful in the forest. I took a walk in the beautiful wood which borders the lake, about fifteen to twenty arpents from the shore. Beyond the wood are almost impassable swamps and prairies. I killed a rattlesnake, which was not as large as those found at Rivière au Chicotte, at the source of Lake Champlain.

At 9 o'clock in the evening the wind abated, but the lake was still so rough no one could have gone out on it, even for the most urgent business, for fear of tipping over.

August 1754

[August] 1st,

Thursday, left at 5:39 W.S.W.; at 5:37 swamp; at 6:11 swamp; at 8:25 S.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. We hoisted our sail, a strong wind began at 6:15; at 9:40 grounded and disabled by the strong wind. M. Péan was in a river  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a league farther on. M. de St. Ours broke the



keel of his canoe. A sergeant came up to where I had landed in a canoe that was sinking. It was badly damaged, and I had it repaired. About 6:30 in the evening I suggested to the carmen of the canoes with me, that we embark. The chiefs told me that the waves were too high for their canoe, which was not as good as mine. I left at 7:45 W.S.W. The lake was very rough, so I made slow progress. I had them beat the drum, so they might answer me from the camp. I passed the canoes of MM. St. Martin, St. Ours, Bonnesamp and others who had been ahead of me; M. de Rigauville, Father Forget Duverger and the men in two other canoes had camped farther back. At 9:50 I was crossing the river where M. Péan was. He had fires built on the point, and by means of this light, I entered without shipping water, although the waves broke with force over the two points at the entrance. M. Péan thought all the canoes were following me, but I told him none of them had wanted to leave. Some call the river where we were, Rivière aux Roches, others Rivière à Seguin or Rivière Blanche.

[August] 2nd,

Friday, I examined the river where we were and its entrance, as I could not see much of it the evening before. I am making a drawing of it here.



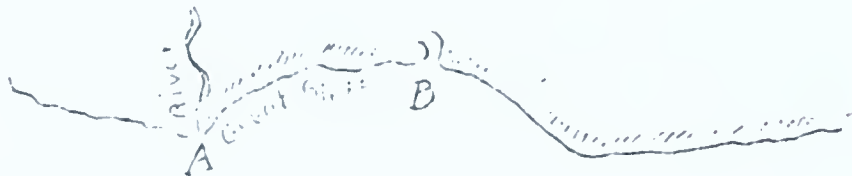
This river is large, and it is said to be the widest this side of the lake.

The canoes, which had remained behind, appeared at 5 o'clock and we departed; at 5:55 a river whose entrance is closed by a sand bank, with some small trees on it. Remained

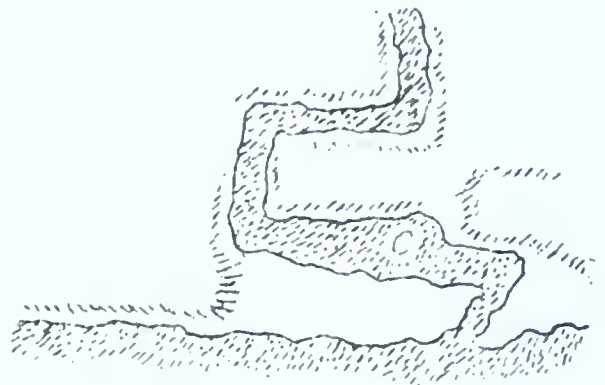
until 6:14 looking this river over, and adding a diagram of it.



At 6:15 bluff; at 7:17 end of bluffs which are of yellow earth and appear to be falling away.



At 7:23 doubled the point marked A where there is a river; at 7:30 S.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S., near the river at point A are some bluffs of earth; at 8:11 S.E.; at 8:36 small stream B; at 9:09 end of bluffs; at 9:40 swamp, bluffs; at 11:00 stopped rowing to eat dinner, S.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W.; at 11:27 resumed rowing; at 12:15 camped by a river said to be Rivière Blanche or Rivière à Seguin, others maintain that it is the Rivière à la Roche or aux Roches. However, I will give the outline, and mark it Rivière à Seguin until I have more definite information. If it is the Rivière à Seguin, perhaps it goes to the land of the small village of Couchaké; one goes by a road 35 leagues long, which is decreased to about 20 leagues from the mouth of this river. On said route 35 leagues long, it is necessary to pass by a small lake half a league in diameter.



According to the savages, it is 3 leagues away from the said river. The Rivière à Seguin or Blanche rises near a small village called Village du Sourd. Drawing of the Rivière Blanche or Seguin marked C, it is also called Goyahagué.

[August] 3rd,

Saturday, we left in the morning at 1:33 W.N.W.; at 2:42 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.; at 3:03 W.S.W.; at 3:25 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.; at 4:04 streams W.N.W.; at 5:15 doubled the last point of the bluffs which are high and rocky, afterwards they are of clay; W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W. these bluffs are not long, but we found high rocks up



to 6:39; we stopped at 6:55; left at 7:07; at 8:02 S.W.; at 8:04 S.S.W.; at 8:05 Rivière Creuse; at 9:00 W  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.



The wind started to become strong; we hoisted sail and crossed to a point; at 9:00 a river;

at 9:40 W.N.W.; at 10:25 W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.; at 11:27 W.; at 11:35 W.S.W.; at 12:15 W.



At 11:27 we went west to cut into a cove which we took for a point because of the distance. It is true the cove is not deep, but the wind forced us to enter the cove which may be  $3\frac{1}{2}$  leagues long by 5 to 6 quarters of a league deep; at 12:20 swamp or river; at 12:30 W.N.W. river stopped up, that is to say, its mouth is obstructed by sand banks or mounds, and the river flows only at high water; at 1:10 entered a river with three names: Rivière aux Hurons, Rivière au Père, and Rivière au Vermillon. The violence of the wind compelled us to camp. Here is a diagram of said river.



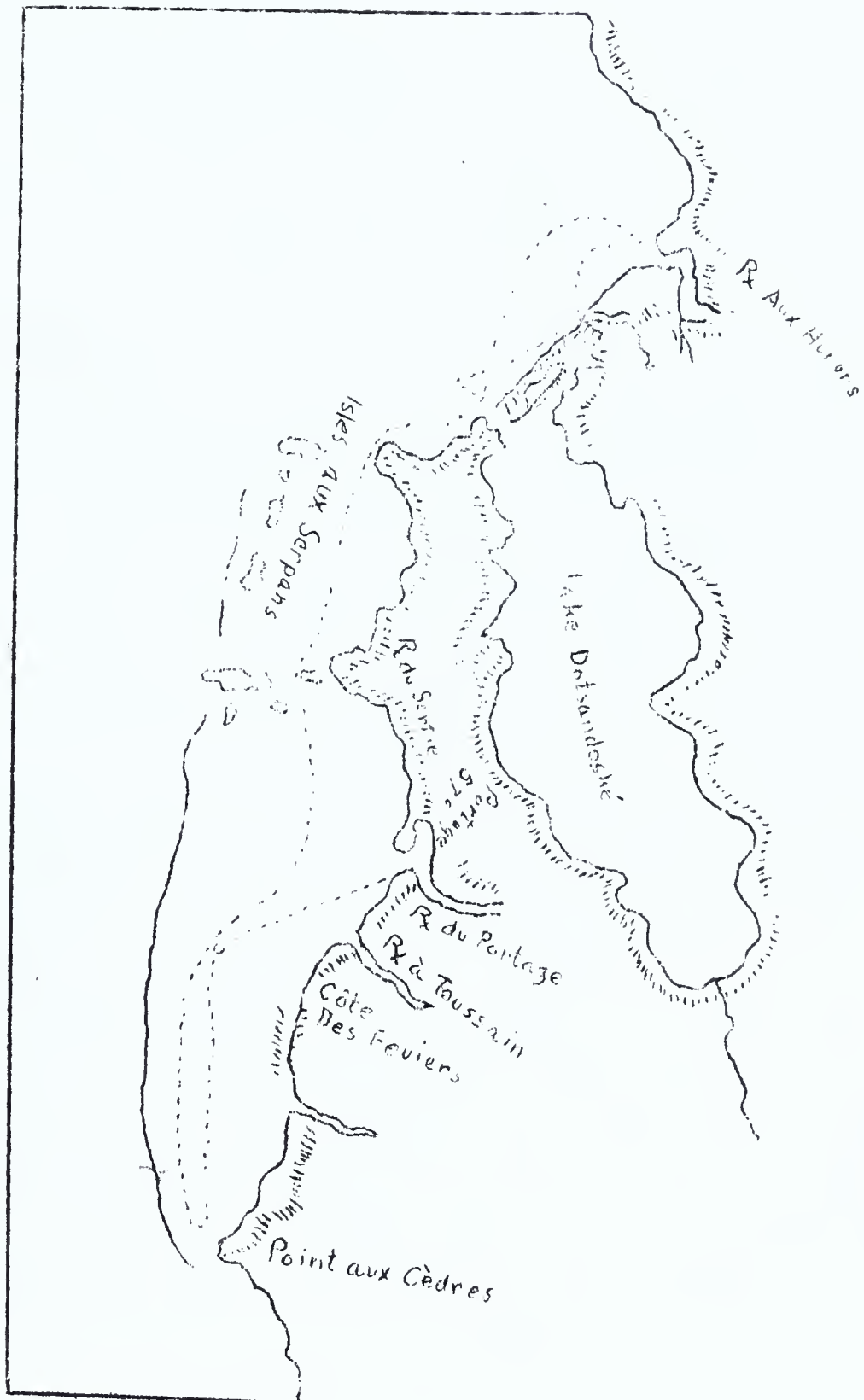
[August] 4th, Sunday, we left at 5:22 N.W.; M. de Rigauville, Father Borecamp, Jesuit, and another canoe landed  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a league away. There they took their bearings which were 41 degrees, 24 minutes and 54 seconds. The wind increased to a tempest, and a cloud covered the north-eastern part of the sky from the point where we took our bearings to the point we discovered to the E. We proceeded E.N.W. of the same point to the point W.; we proceeded S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S. and N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N. of the Rivière aux Hurons, au Père or au Vermillon. The shore runs S.E. and N.W. The entrance to Lake Dotsandoské is found at about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  leagues in this space. At 10 leagues I found

myself opposite two entrances of the bay. As my canoe was nearest the land and the farthest advanced, and as I had no guide, I judged it to be the entrance of Lake Dotsandoské. With the wind at my back, I went forward to enter. The waves were very high when I was in the left channel ( for the entrance of the lake is divided by a small island ); my canoe shipped a great deal of water. I discovered a large body of water which I thought must be Lake Dotsandoské. I unfurled my flag as a signal to all the canoes following me; several had shipped water and had suffered greatly from the heavy wind. I saw all of them enter the lake, and on reaching the island, they emptied the water from their canoes, and M. Péan changed his clothes which were soaked. I did not know where the portage was. I thought some trace must remain of the fort built there by the French in 1751, and later abandoned. To find it, I followed the northern coast of said lake which runs E. & W. After having covered about 3 leagues, I perceived a clearing where I landed at noon, and found the remains of the old fort. I had my canoe and the packages in it carried over the portage at once, and at two o'clock everything had been taken over. M. Péan arrived at three, the rest of the day was spent carrying these goods and canoes. However, three boats remained at the little lake. The portage is 57 arpents long, leaving the little lake it runs N.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W. There are three small meadows to pass, which are about equal distances from each other. Next, there is a small wood of honey-locusts, then the bank of the Rivière du Portage, near the shore of the great lake. There we had our camp. Drawing of the Rivière du Portage.



I estimate that from the river we call aux Hurons to the entrance of Lake Dotsandoské, two leagues of the coast are wooded while one is at the edge of the woods. Then there is an extensive prairie which is eventually lost in Lake Dotsandoské.

For information on the route of this day's journey, and the one taken by Père Boncamp, Jesuit, going from the little lake to the Point aux Cèdres, I shall mark on the following sketch the route he took, outside and the route I followed, inside.



[August] 5th, Monday, we departed at 7:30 because it was necessary to wait for the arrival of the three canoes which had remained at the little lake the day before. At 9 o'clock to Pointe aux Feviers, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  leagues from our point of departure W.; halfway is Rivière à Toussain; it empties into the meadows which border this part of the lake; at 9:10 left Pointe aux Feviers; steered for Pointe aux Cèdres N.W.; at 2 o'clock steered for the foot of the lake. We had travelled about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  leagues from Pointe aux Feviers, route N.; at 4:15 arrived at the other side of the bay, which we thought might be  $3\frac{1}{2}$  leagues across, where the Rivière des Miamis is located. We cut across the point to the fort, N. two leagues; then to Pointe aux Roches half a league from the fort; sketch of the Pointe au Fort, Pointe aux Roches and of Rivière aux Cignes N. $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E.; at 7 o'clock left Pointe aux Roches, followed the edge of the rushes N.E.; at 8:15 N.; at 9 o'clock arrived at an old Huron village at the Isle aux Bois Blancs at the mouth of the Rivière de Detroit. All the canoes did not spend the night where I did. M. Péan camped near the channel of the peninsula, and the other canoes in the islands. It was too dark to keep them together.



[August] 6th, Tuesday, I left at 7:35 N.N.W.; at 8:05 stopped to wait for the canoes which had not spent the night with me. N., at 8:27 left N.; at 8:37 N. $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E.; stopped at 9:57; left at 10:25 N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.; at 10:45 N.N.E.; at 11:00 N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.; at 11:55 Isle aux Dindes; at 12:15 N.N.E.; at 12:45 N.E.; stopped to wait for canoes; left at 1 o'clock N.E.; at 1:11 N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.; at 1:20 N.E.; at 1:40 arrived at the Fort du Détroit Erié. Although, in the journal I made of my stay in Detroit, I already mentioned this day, I shall repeat it here, and also the other days up to the time of M. Péan's departure for Michillimiquinac. It will be easier to make a repetition than to change journals. M. Péan marched ahead, M. de Léry brought up the rear-guard, M. St. Martin acted as major, MM. St. Ours, Portneuf, des Melcises and Cournoyer in the divisions. The said detachment saluted the flag of the fort with three volleys of musket-fire. When we landed at the gardens above the fort, nine boxes of fireworks were fired off. The 20 men of the garrison troops were under arms on the field, with drums beating.



M. de Muy, captain, commanding said fort during the absence of M. de Céleron, major, who had gone down to Montreal, received M. Péan thirty paces from the fort. The militia were under arms to the left of the troops, and all remained until M. Péan was in the fort, from where he sent orders to his canoes to camp below the fort and to set up the camp by the enclosure on the side facing the Poute8atamis village. The officers placed their tents on the first line along the side which faced the water, and the troops and militia back of them in four lines. The Huron chiefs went to greet the commander of the detachment. The weather was fine, serene, without any wind and the sun shone.

I found nothing changed at the fort except an addition about eighteen toises long that had been made on the east, northeast side. A storehouse had been built south of Sainte Anne Street, on the site made by enlarging the fort. It was fifty feet long by thirty feet wide with a pit of stone used as a cellar, a ground floor and a warehouse above. The storekeeper lived below, and merchandise could be stored above.

To the east northeast is a bakery whose corner is a foot from the house. It forms a square with the street and is 90 feet long by 25 feet wide, with two large ovens outside.

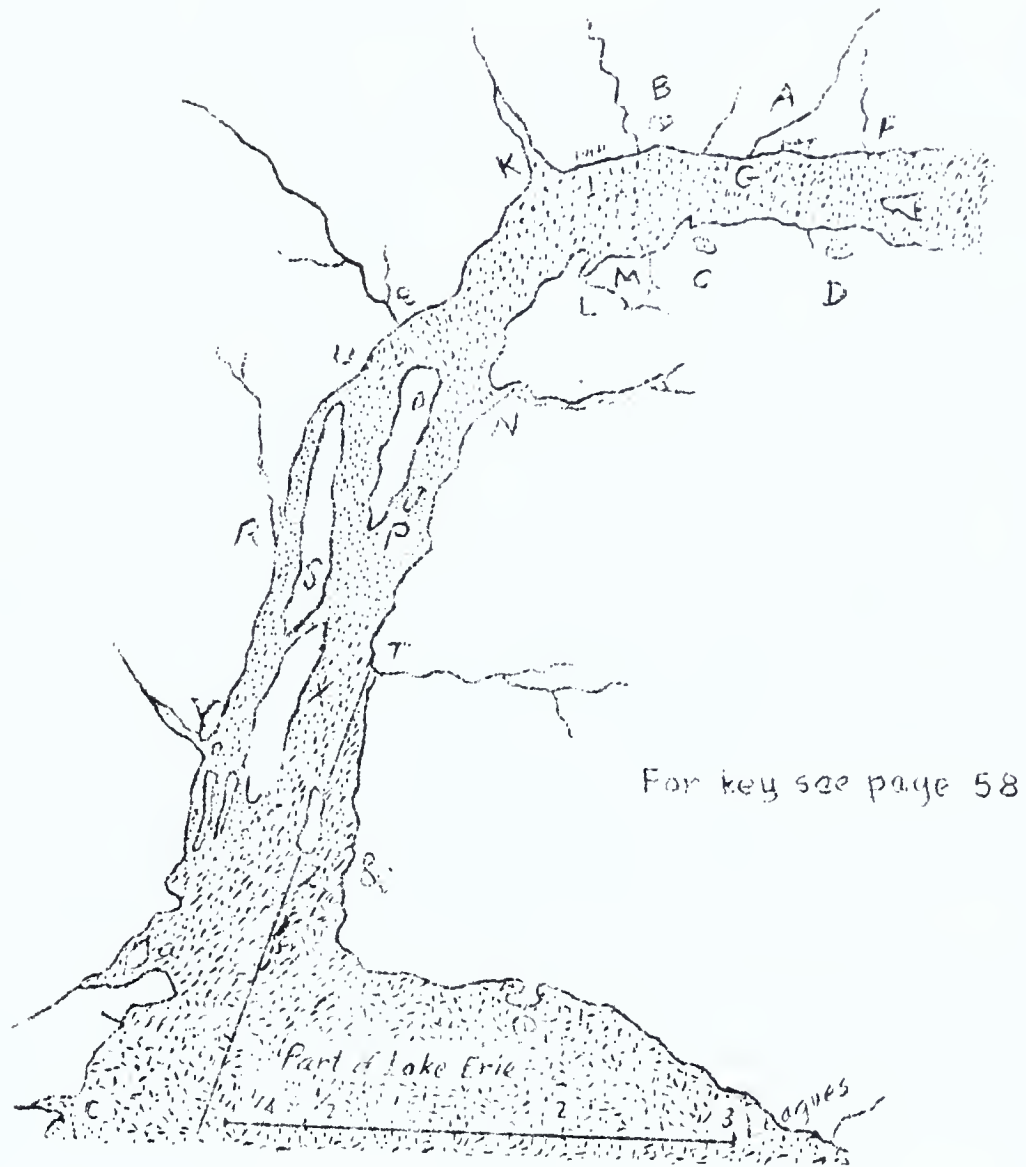
Sketch of the Rivière du Detroit from its mouth to the fort:

- A. Fort
- B. Poute8atamis village
- C. Huron village
- D. Outa8ois village
- E. Rivière a Parant
- F. Isle aux Cochons
- G. Rivière aux Hurons
- H. Rivière de Bausseron
- I. Sand bluffs
- K. Rivière Rouge
- L. Rivière de la vieille Reine

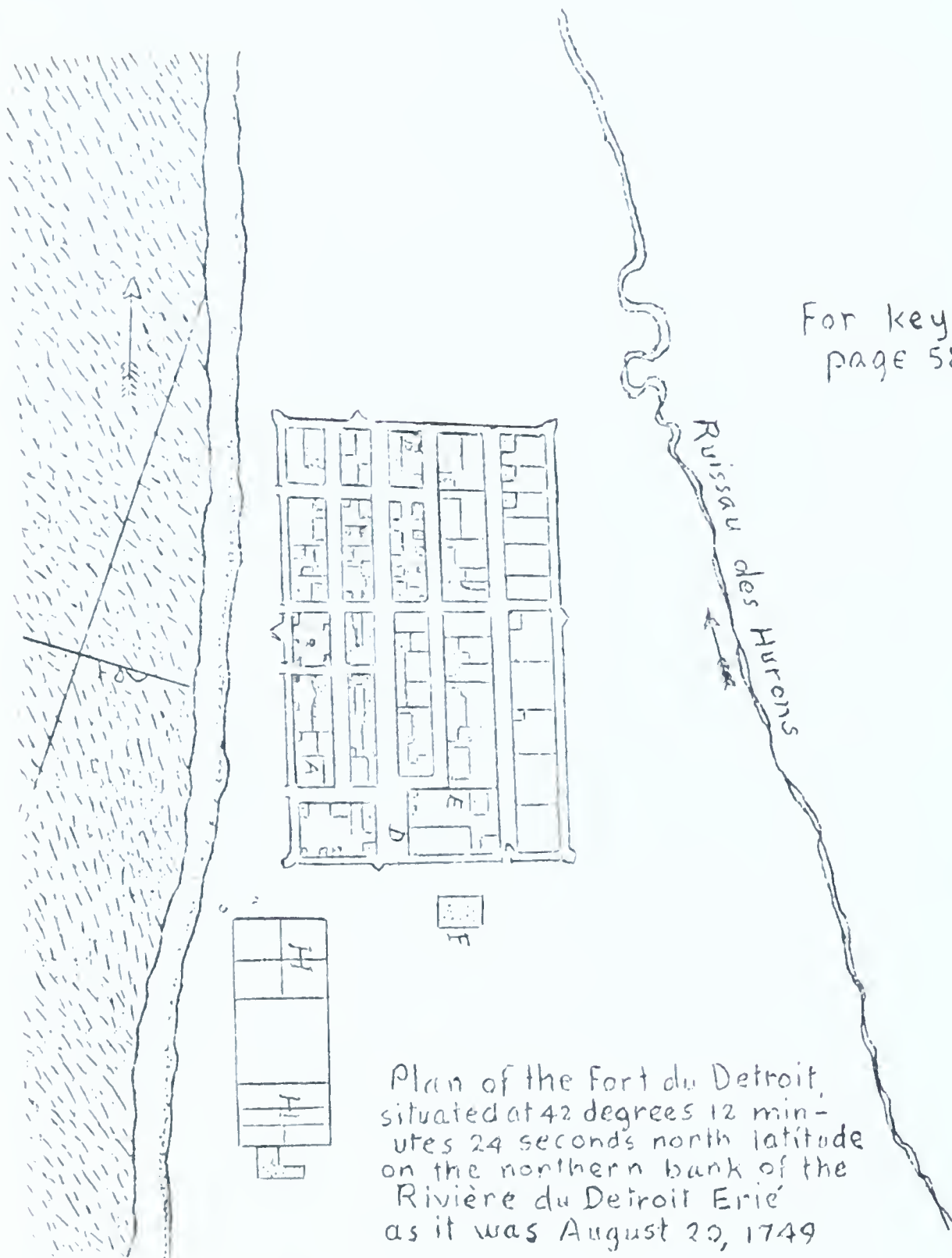
- M. Rivière de la Panise
- N. Rivière au Dinde
- O. Isle au Dinde
- P. Petite Isle au Dinde
- Q. Rivière aux Ecorces
- U. Pointe Mongouagon
- R. Rivière à la Carrière
- S. La Grande Isle
- T. Rivière au Canard
- X. Isle à la Pierre
- Y. Rivière à la Presque Isle
- Z. Isle au Bois Blanc & Huron village in 1748.
- a. Rivière aux Hurons
- b. Pointe Mouille
- c. Rivière au Cigne
- d. Presque Isle

Plan of Fort du Detroit situated 42 degrees 12 minutes 24 seconds north latitude on the north shore of the Rivière du Détroit Erié [ river of the Erie straits ] as it was August 20, 1749.

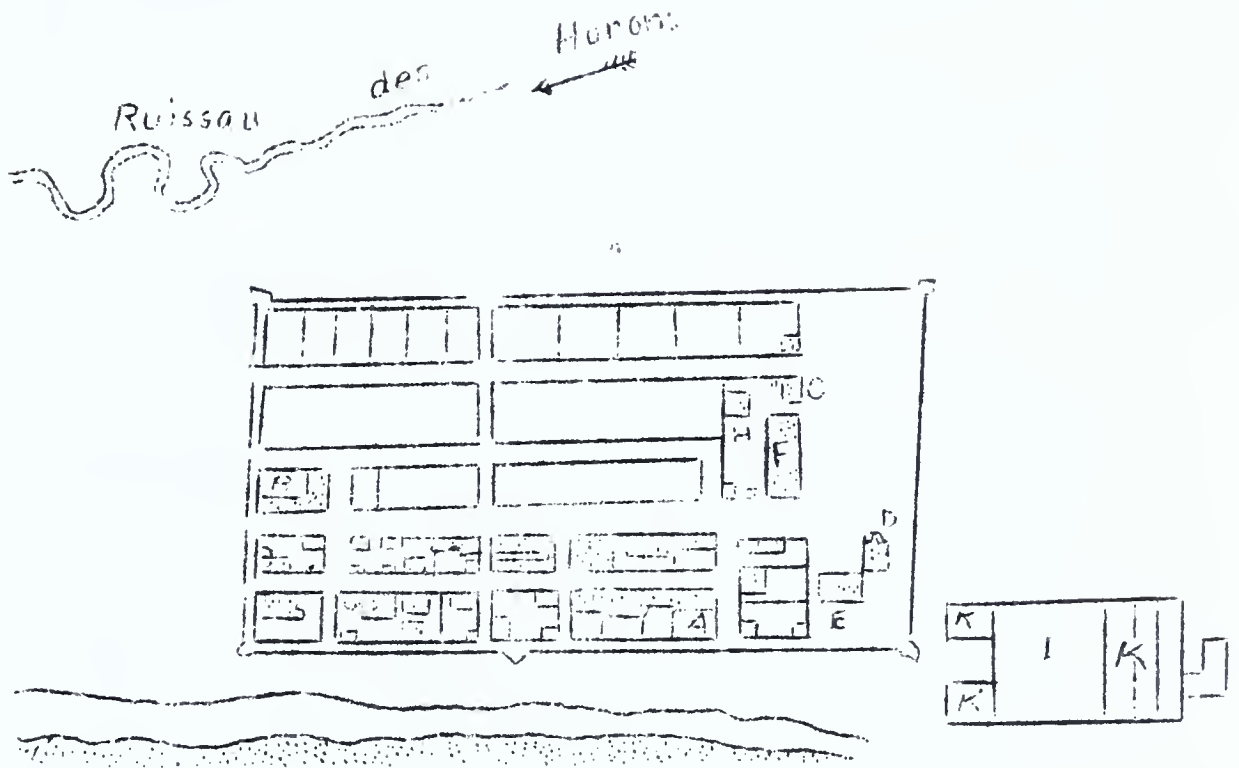
- A. Commander's house
- B. Guard-house and barracks
- C. Powder-magazine
- D. Parish Church
- E. Priest's house
- F. Cemetery
- G. King's garden
- H. H. Private garden



Sketch of the Riviere du Detroit from its mouth to the fort.







Plan of the Fort du Detroit, situated at 42 degrees 12 minutes 24 seconds north latitude on the northern bank of the Rivière du Detroit Erié as it was August 6, 1754

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Commander's quarters    | F. Parish church      |
| B. Guardhouse and barracks | G. Cemetery           |
| C. Powder magazine         | H. Priest's house     |
| D. Bakery                  | I. King's garden      |
| E. Storehouse              | K.K.K. Private garden |

ESTIMATED DISTANCE FROM THE FORT DE LA PRESQUE ISLE  
AT LAKE ERIE TO DETROIT

Namely	Leagues
From Fort de la Presque Isle to its extremity going around the outside of said Presque Isle -----	$2\frac{3}{4}$
From said Presque Isle to a small river -----	$0\frac{3}{4}$
From said river to Riviere à la Barbue -----	$2\frac{3}{4}$
From said river to Rivière à la Carpe -----	$2\frac{3}{4}$
From said river to the swamp where we camped -----	$\frac{6\frac{1}{4}}{15\frac{1}{4}}$
From the swamp to Rivière a la Roche where the wind forced us to camp -----	$5\frac{1}{2}$
From Rivière à la Roche to a small river -----	3
From said little river to Rivière à Seguin, camped	$\frac{6\frac{1}{2}}{9\frac{1}{2}}$
From Rivière à Seguin to Rivière du Rocher which is found near the bluffs -----	$2\frac{1}{2}$
From said Rivière du Rocher to the Rivière Creuse---	4
From the Rivière Creuse to the Rivière au Vermillion, called aux Hurons -----	$\frac{6\frac{1}{2}}{13}$
From the Rivière aux Hurons to Bay de Sansdoské ----	$1\frac{3}{4}$
From said bay to Pointe aux Feviers going around by the lake. -----	$\frac{10}{11\frac{3}{4}}$
From said Pointe aux Feviers to Pointe aux Cèdres --	5 $\frac{2}{3}$
From Pointe aux Cèdres to another point which is almost at the foot of Lake Erie -----	$1\frac{1}{4}$
From this point to the Rivière des Miamis -----	$1\frac{1}{2}$

Namely

Leagues

From the Rivière des Miamis to Pointe aux Raisains -----	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
From Pointe aux Raisains to Pointe aux Roches ----	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
From Pointe aux Roches to the entrance of Rivière du Detroit -----	4
From the entrance of said river to Fort du Detroit	$\frac{6}{23 \frac{1}{6}}$

[August] 6th,

Tuesday, at 1:40 in the afternoon the greatest part of the detachment intended for Michillimaquinac arrived at Detroit. M. Péan led the vanguard and De Léry the rear-guard, M. de St. Martin, major, marched in his place, MM. de St. Ours, Neuville, des Meloises and de Cournoyer in the divisions. The said detachment saluted the flag of the fort with three volleys of musketry. We landed at the gardens, that is to say, above the fort where they fired off nine rounds of fireworks. The troops were under arms, the drums beating on the field, when M. de Muy commander of said fort received M. Péan, our commander, thirty steps from the gate of the fort where the troops and militia were stationed, and who were not sent back until M. Péan entered the fort. He sent out orders to his men to go below to set up his camp joining the enclosure of the fort on the side which faces the Poute8atamis village. The officers camped in the front line along the coast facing the water, the troops and militia back four tents deep.

The Hurons saluted the commander of the detachment.

The weather was fine, the sun very warm, no wind.

[August] 7th,

Wednesday, the Poute8atamis saluted the commander of the detachment and all the officers, me in particular because I was to remain in Detroit.

M. le Mercier arrived at 9 o'clock in the evening, and announced the approaching departure of the remainder of M. Péan's detachment. The sun appeared, it was warm, the wind northeast. M. de Rigauville and Father Bonecamp, Jesuit, arrived at 2 o'clock. He had left us at Sansdoské.

[August] 8th, Thursday, I took down my tent and took a room at the fort until I could find lodgings. It rained, ten men were sent in canoes to Isle aux Dindes to wait for the rest of the detachment, and to inform them how they were to come.

M. de Rigauville, who was to serve as third in command at Detroit, also came to the fort.

[August] 9th, Friday, arrival from Montreal of Sieur Godet, traveler, with six canoes. The weather was warm. I lost a barrel of wine because the hoops were missing.

[August] 10th, Saturday, M. de Meziere, lieutenant of the Louisbourg troops, arrived from Montreal. He was going to the Oyatanons to replace M. des Ligneries who was now in Detroit, on his departure to Montreal where he expected to go. Since a letter from the general to M. de Contrecoeur informed him that he would send M. de Ligneris later in the season, I told him I thought he would find an order at Niagara to go to Belle Riviere.

Father Simple Boquet, Recollect, arrived with M. de Meziere. He came to relieve Father Bonaventure, also Recollect, who had long served at Detroit as chaplain and priest of the garrison.

Light southeast wind, the weather was very warm.

[August] 11th, Sunday, weather same as yesterday; the ten men sent to Isle aux Dindes the 8th, arrived at 7 o'clock in the evening. M. de Carqueville, who commanded the rest of the men, waited at the island. Letters came from Quebec and Montreal. M. Péan said he had received none from the general, but no one believed him. I received three from Quebec dated the 6th, 7th, and 17th of July and one from Montreal dated July 24th.

[August] 12th, Monday, M. de Carqueville arrived with 22 bark canoes, each holding eight, and 230 men who did not appear to have been chosen. He landed with three flags carried by three cadets who gave them to the three ensigns at eight arpents from the fort, and marched with the detachment which had come to receive them. They were taken to the head of the camp. It rained for an hour, the wind west northwest. One of my barrels of wine leaked out through worm holes. M. de Carqueville saluted the fort with three volleys of musketry which was answered with 9 rounds of fireworks.



[August] 13th, Tuesday, at ten o'clock in the morning, M. Péan talked to the four savage nations of Detroit, namely the Hurons, the Poutebatamis, the Outa8ois and the Sauteurs. Near the door of the fort, a large tent made of several sails was set up; in it were placed many fine presents for each nation. All the officers, and even the commander of the fort, were there, as well as the priest and missionary to the Hurons and Father Dujonay, Jesuit from Michillimequinac, who was going to Montreal.

M. Péan told them, that is to say, the nations, that their father Onontio had given them the presents, and that they were to keep themselves ready for the time when he would need them. He thanked those who were starting out for Belle Rivière and gave each of them a special present.

The savages replied that they could only say that when the time came they would show us what they would do. Many seemed to think that was a favorable response, but M. de Ligneris and I were of a different opinion.

The commander of the fort told them to remember the kindness of their Father Onontio, in sending a chief to give them so many presents.

When the council ended, the troops were ordered to take up arms, they made a wheel of the quarter circle at the head of the camp. Some thought the savages were afraid; I saw many of them laugh, and none of them appeared frightened of a maneuver they must have thought useless.

A difficulty concerning precedence arose. M. Péan had ordered his detachment to take up arms, M. de St. Martin, acting as major, had the company of gunners do likewise, and M. de Carqueville, who marched at the head of the detachment, took his post precisely at the head of the corps. When the company of gunners was drawn up in line, they found themselves free back of M. de Carqueville, who had left nothing behind him, M. Le Mercier, captain of the gunners, asked M. Péan what right M. de Carqueville had to place himself at the head of his company. M. Péan replied that M. de Carqueville was at his post, and if M. Le Mercier wished he could go there also, but that it was not fitting for a sergeant to march ahead of officers. M. Le Mercier told his sergeant, in a loud voice, to send back the company, which was done at once, and M. de Carqueville remained isolated at least 50 paces in front of the

troops, because of the space left by the withdrawal of the company. The commander of the fort and many officers were present during the controversy, and when the manœuvre took place.

[August] 14th,                      Wednesday, M. Péan had 42 canoes made ready with 12 men for each one, not counting the officers or employees; this made a corps of 504 men, with whom he went down to Montreal taking the Michillimaquinac route. Loads were made up for each canoe.

M. Péan sent a canoe to Montreal by way of the lakes. It rained in torrents day and night.

[August] 15th,                      Thursday, Assumption day, beautiful calm weather. The procession of the Virgin took place outside the fort. The detachment carried arms, not resting this day because of its solemnity.

[August] 16th,                      Friday, at 7 o'clock in the morning, M. Péan left for Michillimaquinac at the head of his detachment, M. de Carqueville bringing up the rear-guard.

M. de Lignerie left for Niagara at 9 o'clock in the morning.

[August] 17th,                      Saturday, fine weather, a half-barrel leaked out through worm holes.

[August] 18th,                      Sunday, M. de Normanville, who had been with the Miamis, arrived. He only learned after 12 days at this post that the detachment was not going by way of the Miamis.

The sun was bright and warm, the wind to the south.

[August] 19th,                      Monday, M. de Normanville left for Montreal in the canoes of Sieur Bondy, traveller. Fine weather, wind east southeast.

[August] 26th,                      Monday, Sieur Godelle, traveller, left for Montreal. Some Frenchmen arrived from Rivière St. Joseph. The wind west southwest.

September 1754

- [September] 1st,           Bright sunshine, the wind from S. $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.
- [September] 2nd,           Cloudy, the wind from S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.
- [September] 3rd,           M. Meziere left by land to take command of the  
Ouyatannons. He went by way of St. Joseph, from where  
he was to take the route to his post. Father Forget,  
priest at the Seminary of Foreign Missions, who was go-  
ing to the Taimarois, left with him. He had come from  
Quebec with me. It was cold, the sun appeared, the wind  
from S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.
- [September] 10th,           The weather was fine, a small rain storm, cold  
north wind.
- [September] 11th,           M. Landriève, acting as commissary, left at  
5 o'clock with Father Bonaventure, Recollect, with two  
canoes for Montreal. The commander saluted his flag  
with nine rounds of fireworks.
- [September] 24th,           A man named Forville, inhabitant of Detroit who  
had guided M. de Péan's detachment to Michillimaquinac,  
arrived. He reported that it had taken eight days to go  
there, that the detachment had remained seven days at  
the fort, which he had left the following day to return.
- Weather good, wind from east northeast.
- [September] 25th,           Jacques Laselle, voyageur arrived from Niagara  
where he had gone to get merchandise which he had left  
there. He brought some letters, nine for me. I found  
a barrel of wine had leaked out through worm holes.
- We had word from Fort des Miamis the 15th of  
this month that a band of Cha8anons had gone there to  
buy blankets and other merchandise but no munitions,  
as they had enough.
- Fine weather, the nights fresh, the wind from  
N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E.

October 1754

[October] 1st, M. de Muy informed him that he did not consider Fort du Detroit able to defend itself, and I agreed with him. It appeared to me that he intended to have some work done there. The sun shone at intervals, east northeast wind.

[October] 2nd, I made a tour of the fort with the commander, and he decided to rebuild the bastions and also to enlarge the wooden fort. I worked at a plan for the project. North north-west wind.

[October] 3rd, I showed the plan to the commander and stated my objections to extending the fort on the side towards the woods. This would carry us to a stream, impassable in spring and autumn, and this site would not be convenient for some who perhaps would not want it, and would be a detriment to us, seeing it would be of piles which we are counting on for the enlargement of the fort. I made a second plan of a fort with four bastions, extending the square on the side where the piles were, but he thought the bastions too large. This decided me to fortify the long square.

The weather fine, northeast wind.

[October] 4th, My new plan was made and approved. The commander decided that each inhabitant would furnish four fifteen-foot posts, for each arpent of ground of his holding, to make the enclosure of the new fort. This would mean twelve posts a piece for most of them, a small price to pay for a safe retreat in case of danger.

[October] 5th, The commander ordered that all volunteers, numbering almost a hundred, should be ready at any time to come to the fort. His plans were not revealed.

The weather fine and warm, the wind  $W.\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.

[October] 6th, We had them get the tools ready that were in the King's storehouse. There were hardly any there. South wind.

[October] 7th, I started to sketch the tenail, which faces the Poutematis village, which I shall call the west southwestern side. South wind.

[October] 8th, They gave orders that all the volunteers were to report at the fort the next day at daybreak. The sun was warm, wind to the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.



[October] 9th, In the morning I had the volunteers make excavations for the tenail, W.S.W.; and I sketched a part of the N.W. side which shows a bastion, with a half-bastion on each side. The weather warm, wind to the south.

[October] 10th, The volunteers continued to dig, while some pulled up posts from the old enclosure. Weather warm, the wind east southeast.

[October] 11th, Three Cha8anons had come to winter with the Hurons, who brought them to the commander. The Cha8anons complained that they had no merchandise in their villages. The commander told them to return and inform their chiefs that the French would bring them goods. They replied that they had not come just to turn back. However, one said he would return to his village in December. He carried no speech from his chief, however, the commander gave the one, who was returning, a speech to strengthen the ties binding the French to the Cha8anons, and a string of wampum to make a road from their village to Sandoské to visit the French traders who might not find enough water to make the voyage to the Cha8anons villages. It was the Hurons who presented them to the commander and told him to clothe them, this he did.

The weather was bright, the wind east southeast.

We worked at full speed on the fort, which kept me very busy because everyone was working and it was necessary to make the alignments, and direct those already made. I layed out the side by the water, and made a plain bastion between the two bastions at the corners of the square, in order to shorten the defenses, otherwise too long, as the flank of the Hurons bastion was too weak to protect the front and the left flank of the Outa8ois bastion. Some misunderstanding between the commander and M. Godefroy regarding the posts.

[October] 14th, A man named Niagara Campault arrived from Montreal, which he left September 11th, and said that a few hours before his departure, half of the city of Montreal had burned, that is to say, from the Jesuits to the King's storehouse, and that nine men coming from Belle Rivière had fallen into the Rapide du Buisson and were drowned.

By letters received from Niagara, we learned that an officer passing through there from Presque Isle, brought bad news to the general, and further, that the English were building a fort twenty leagues from Fort Duquesne.

The man, Niagara, met two Englishmen being taken to Montreal. We did not know if they were officers held as hostages or traders.

The general told the commander to send the letters at once that he had addressed to him for the governor of Mississippi, telling him to make peace with the nations of that government with whom he is at war. He gave full power to the commander of the Onyatanons to pardon them.

The general sent an order to M. de Muy, permitting him to wear the cross of St. Louis which he received this year.

M. de Codefroy came to see the commander with the Recollect Father. They were reconciled, but I think both were not sincere in this.

The weather beautiful, the wind west southwest.

I received letters from Quebec dated September 7th, informing me that next spring the general would be relieved by Marquis de Vaudreuil, formerly governor of Mississippi. M. Martel told me that Mme. de Muy had someone write him that she had been safely delivered of a baby boy.

We learned of the arrival of one of the King's boats, Le Caméléon, at Quebec. There was no promotion this year. M. Dailleboust, King's lieutenant at Louisbourg, had his transfer to Trois Rivières and MM. de St. Vincent and de Muy, captains, were made Chevaliers de St. Louis.

We learned by a letter from M. de Ligneris, captain, that he had found an order at Niagara telling him to report at Belle Rivière.

[October] 15th, Fair weather, the wind S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.

They worked diligently at the fort, all apparently with good will. There was, however, a great deal of opposition on the part of persons who should have done all in their power to advance the project.

[October] 16th, I sketched the east northeastern tenail, and work progressed on all sides. The inhabitants who were to furnish material for the new cemetery no longer gave it a thought. Twenty toises still have to be enclosed, which I think will not be done for a long time. I did not make a note of the day we started work on the cemetery. At that time there was nothing said about rebuilding the fort, and I laid out a triangular cemetery so as to be protected by the

Poute8atamis and Outa8ois bastions. At present it will only take up a third of the space from the right face of the Dauphin bastion to the flank and left face of the Outa8ois bastion; it is situated 32 toises, 1 foot from the point of the Sauteurs bastion, the side which faces the salient angle of this bastion is 18 toises, 3 feet long, and the two other sides which form the triangle are of equal length, each 25 toises, 4 feet. Each citizen and inhabitant was to furnish six six-foot posts, set 2 feet apart, driven into the ground and secured by a rail. The main part of the Sauteur bastion almost cuts the cemetery into two equal parts, that is to say, it goes within two toises of the center of the base facing the point of the bastion, and 2 toises, 2 feet from the point facing the country. I decided to make it triangular in form to avoid the difficulties arising from square plots made close to a fort, and particularly in Canada, where we are subject to surprise attacks by the savages. The way the cemetery is situated, the sentinels, placed at the points of the three bastions, have an unobstructed view of the surrounding country and can communicate with each other. The commander, as I had hoped, was satisfied with my plan.

[October] 17th, Fair weather, north wind. We worked at the fort and it was progressing nicely. I remained close to the work.

[October] 18th, A chief with a medal died; he was of the Outa8ois nation. Seven Frenchmen arrived from Rivière St. Joseph. They came to buy wheaten flour.

Two Frenchmen who came from Montreal with Niagara Campault, left to return there with seven Iroquois from Sault St. Louis. I entrusted them with a letter for the general and a plan of the fort, and with letters for my family.

#### November 1754

[November] 7th, It turned cold, during the evening a little snow fell. Since the 25th of last month we have had only a little rain and cold weather. The savages have been leaving for their winter quarters since October 15th.

[November] 8th, Fair weather, west northwest wind.

[November] 9th, There were small planks along the beach. The priest's house was raised up for a foundation. I began to feel discouraged about those working at the fort, and informed the commander who seemed disposed to put things in order. Wind W.S.W.



- [November] 10th,            Weather fair, south wind.
- [November] 11th,        Weather the same, the sun appeared at intervals, west  
                                 wind.
- [November] 12th,        Bad weather with heavy rain, northeast wind.
- [November] 13th,        Cold during the night, wind north northeast.
- [November] 16th,        Saturday, very fine weather, southeast wind.

I planted in a box, which I placed in the room, some figs and grapes dried in the sun, as the ensign had done to transport trees, perennial plants, seeds and other rare species of natural history across the sea.

I planted some chives in another box which I put in the same room with the other.

The work on the enclosure slackened noticeably, and I thought I perceived signs of jealousy. This was confirmed by some posts being pulled out from the enclosure around the storehouse after it had been agreed they were to be set there, an act which might tend to discourage setting out posts around the fort.

- [November] 17th,        Sunday it rained and turned cold. They gave orders to the inhabitants and others who were to furnish posts for the fort to bring them, but they were slow in doing it. They claimed they had been told the fort would not be finished until the spring. This annoyed me greatly, because if it were not finished, it would be through negligence.

The wind changed several times, in a northerly direction.

- [November] 18th,        Monday, the wind changeable as yesterday, some rain storms in the morning.

- [November] 19th,        Tuesday, a man named Gouin, trader at Sandoské, arrived. He said he had been at Couchaké, and while he was staying there a Loup savage arrived from Belle Rivière and told the Hurons and Iroquois that the English begged them not to become involved in any trouble that might break out between the French and the English. Sieur Gouin asserts that he saw no belt given on this occasion. If there had been one, the savages would have carefully concealed it. It is fortunate that Sieur Gouin knew the object of this trip of the Loup savage.



It rained all day, the wind east southeast. Couchaké is situated 30 to 35 leagues south of Lake Dotsandoské on a river which flows into Belle Rivière. I think it is the Sirihoto. From Couchaké there is a land route to Fort Duquesne, requiring two days' travel.

- [November] 20th,            Wednesday, some snow fell, the wind west southwest, strong and cold. Work on the fort has stopped.
- [November] 21st,            Thursday, colder than yesterday, the wind west southwest.
- [November] 22nd,            Friday, southwest wind, cold. The sun appeared for a short while.
- [November] 23rd,            Saturday, weather bright and cold. Sieur Gouin left for Sandoské. I gave him a letter I had written to M. de Ligneris at Fort de la Belle Rivière, and asked him to give it to some savages who were going there. There was nothing to risk, as it contained no important news.
- [November] 24th,            Sunday, no wind, air cold, bright sunshine. Up to the present time I have found but little difference between the climate of Quebec and the climate here.
- [November] 25th,            Monday, a little snow fell this morning. North wind.
- [November] 26th,            Tuesday, bright sunshine, the wind west, cold.
- [November] 27th,            Wednesday, weather cold, the river full of ice, the wind W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W. The sun shone all day. At 7 o'clock in the evening I saw, through a break in a cloud near the horizon, a very luminous star the size of a saucer; at 8:10 it set in the west. Several days before I had seen it in almost the same position, but not so bright. Its rays and reflection which appeared on land and water aroused my interest and induced me to examine it.
- [November] 28th,            Thursday, snow fell and it was cold. North wind.
- [November] 29th,            Friday, weather cold, the wind north northeast.
- [November] 30th,            Saturday, not as cold as yesterday. I spoke to the commander about finishing the enclosure of the fort. He appeared to favor the idea in spite of all the impediments that I had been told certain people had thrown in the way, by giving reasons contrary to the execution of this work, which he was to understand was a useless undertaking. I imagined, with justice, that they had made him feel I would receive all the credit for the construction of the fort, as

if a commander had not the chief benefit of whatever an officer did under his orders. I can only condemn such conduct which may place the commander in two awkward positions. First, for not finishing a fort after it was started without orders, and, second, the affairs of Belle Riviere could become very embarrassing, and cause an outbreak of the savages whose evil intentions we can not doubt. I was more than ever determined to finish the work, because on examining the opposition to it, I found no real reason for the unwillingness of those who were to furnish the posts for the sites, which the commander had given them gratis for furnishing and repairing as many posts as said sites had frontage on a street, conforming to the old concessions and contract. Nothing could prove more clearly that there had been reports circulated at the time of the construction of the fort, claiming that it would be torn down in a short time, than the slowness with which the proprietors of the sites acted to accomplish what they had agreed to do. Many inhabitants brought the posts they were to furnish to the site, but did not set them, further reason to believe that harmful reports against the construction of the fort had been spread. An authoritative act would have brought the troublemakers to reason, and put fear into the other inhabitants who then would have brought the stakes. The wind N.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.

December 1754

[December] 1st, Sunday, mild, thawing weather, no wind.

[December] 2nd, Monday, warm, the ice along the river broke loose, south wind.

A Sauteur chief told the commander that it was a party of Outa8ois from Arbre Croche who had killed the Poute8atamis from Rivière St. Joseph.

[December] 3rd, Tuesday, the sun came out, the weather was warm, the wind west southwest.

The commander sent a sergeant to the settlements above and below the fort to summon the inhabitants who owed posts to bring them, but as no penalty was designated for those who did not comply, I fear none will be brought.

- [December] 4th,            Wednesday, it thawed until three o'clock in the afternoon, when a strong west southwest wind began to blow. It froze during the night.
- [December] 5th,            Thursday, weather calm, bright sunshine, it thawed from ten o'clock until two. None of the inhabitants seemed to feel obliged to bring the posts despite the order given them on the 3rd of this month.
- [December] 6th,            Friday, weather same as yesterday. Wind west northwest.
- [December] 7th,            Saturday, calm, same sort of weather as yesterday.
- [December] 8th,            Sunday, not cold, bright sunshine, light wind E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E. No posts were brought, nor were those prepared which were already there.
- [December] 9th,            Monday, same weather as yesterday.
- [December] 10th,           Tuesday, bright sunshine, calm, thawing.
- [December] 11th,           Wednesday, bright sun, thawing, the wind west southwest. A fire started in the middle of the vicarage chimney at 4 o'clock in the evening. I received a letter from the commander at Rivière St. Joseph; nothing new at his post.
- [December] 12th,           Thursday, good weather, the sun appeared at intervals. The carpenter's good work was finished at the vicarage. Wind N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E.
- [December] 13th,           Friday, mild weather, it snowed a little until noon when the sun appeared, the wind E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.
- [December] 14th,           Saturday, froze during the night, and thawed during the day. The sun shone a little, the wind S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W. The chimney at the vicarage was finished.
- [December] 15th,           Sunday, they did not work on the parsonage. Some Frenchmen, who were wintering at Saguinaw, arrived from Michillimakinac. Fine weather, wind to the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.
- [December] 16th,           Monday, the sun appeared a little, the air temperate, east wind.
- [December] 17th,           Tuesday, weather warm, south wind.
- [December] 18th,           Wednesday, it rained, temperate, no posts were brought in compliance with the order of the 3rd of this month, and no one seemed to think of doing so. Northeast wind.

[December] 19th, Thursday, he departed, an opportunity to .....  
I wrote to M. Harbin, commander at Michillimakinac, and  
to Chevalier de Repentigny, commander at Sault Ste. Marie.

Thawing in the sun, the wind south southwest. A  
man named Crequi, a resident, set his share of posts on  
the left side of the Dauphin bastion.

[December] 20th, Friday, thawed in the sun and in the shelter of  
the northwest wind. The masonry work finished at the vic-  
arage. Two of the Frenchmen who came from Saguinan the  
15th of this month stayed to enjoy themselves.

[December] 21st, Saturday, bright sunshine, it thawed in the shel-  
ter of the north northwest wind. We killed a female  
pheasant, similar to those in France, at Isle aux Dindes.

[December] 22nd, Sunday, it thawed considerably, the sun did not  
appear, wind south southwest.

[December] 23rd, Monday, the weather very mild, almost like June.  
Some posts were set out, but not as many as could have  
been had they worked with a better will. I marked out  
Rue Ste. Antoine. Light wind S.W. & S.

[December] 24th, Tuesday, it froze a little during the night, thaw-  
ing a great deal during the day. The ground appeared; it  
was almost like summer. Navigation was also open, with  
the exception of some ice near the shore. Some posts  
were set at the fort, but with indifference. We were  
pained to think that if each person had been ready, the  
work would have been easily finished in a day. The wind  
east southeast. The priest returned to the vicarage.

[December] 25th, Wednesday, Christmas, snow fell at midnight, with-  
out being cold, and continued till 11 o'clock in the  
morning, when there was a half-foot of snow on the ground.  
The rest of the day the weather was mild, but no sun, wind  
southwest. At 7 o'clock in the evening, it turned to the  
northeast. I gave half a pound of candles to the church.

[December] 26th, Thursday, bright sunshine, not cold, northeast  
wind. There were a great many carts on the streets.

[December] 27th, Friday, froze at night, bright sunshine during the  
day, and it thawed in the shelter of the south southwest  
wind.



- [December] 28th, Saturday, little sun, thawed toward noon, only about two fingers of snow remained on the ground which showed through in many places. The wind west southwest.
- [December] 29th, Sunday, it thawed wherever the sun shone, and in the shelter of the north northwest wind.
- [December] 30th, Monday, it froze at night and all day, northeast wind. Some wet snow fell. We should have profited by this weather to bring posts, which had been cut in the forest, in to the fort. Some Frenchmen arrived from Fort des Miamis with five horses to carry back goods which were needed at the post. The pirogues could not be used for this, having been put away last autumn when the ice closed navigation. We learned that the Loups savages from Rivière à la Roche had come to the Miamis to trade.

We had information from the Rivière St. Joseph that 26 chiefs and chiefs' sons of the Outa8ois nations had come there to talk of the Poute8atamy and his wife who were killed last autumn. The response to this complaint had not yet been made.

- [December] 31st, Tuesday, the sun was bright, it thawed in the shelter of the west wind. There is no longer any talk of bringing posts to enclose the fort. I was furious when I thought that indifference was the only thing that prevented it. They believed the evil rumors which were spread about, as it was easy to see by their conduct and by certain public talk, where the mildest terms were that those who had ordered this work done were little demons, and they said openly that the advanced season would not permit the fort to be finished before winter. To justify their reasons for not being in favor of this work, they said the commander had undertaken the enterprise without knowledge or counsel of those who had a greater understanding of government. According to the count I made of the posts delivered to the site, there were 642, which could have been set as the others were.

I am adding here the condition and breadth of the gaps to be closed in order to finish the enclosure of the fort.

Namely

Poute8atamis Bastion

	toises	feet
Right front-one of	1	
Right flank-one of	7	3

Royal Bastion

	toises	feet
Left flank-one of	7	3
Left front-one of	11	
Right front-one of	2	3
Right flank-one of	3	2
	<u>32</u>	<u>5</u>

Fortified curtains between these two bastions

	toises	feet
To the right-one of		5
To the left-one of	2	3

Sauteur Bastion

	toises	feet
Right front-one of	1	3
Here -- one of ----	2	2
Right flank-one of	2	4
	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>

Fortified curtain between the Royal Bastion and the Sauteur Bastion

	toises	feet
To the left-one of	9	
To the right-one of	2	3
	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>

	toises	feet
Left front-one of	22	4
Right front-one of	7	1

Outa8ois Bastion

	toises	feet
Left front-one of	18	2
Right front-one of	3	4
	<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>

Fortified curtain between the Huron Bastion and Poute8atamis Bastion

	toises	feet
To right of the fort	30	1
One of - - - - -	2	

SUMMARY

Fortified curtain between  
Sauter Bastion and Outa-  
Bois Bastion

Running toises to be set with  
upright posts

	toises	feet		toises	feet
To the left-one of	1	3	Total - - - - -	115	1

in 21 gaps

Dauphin Bastion

Left face - one of 5

Right face -one of  $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{3}{5}$

January 1755

[January] 1st, Wednesday, it was somewhat cold, the sun appeared. At five o'clock in the evening, a Huron named Glorieux, brother of Baby, chief of this nation, arrived coming from the Cha8anons. He had passed the winter quarters of a Jesuit Father at the Rivière du Portage de Sandoské. He delivered to the commander a letter from the Father, by which he learned that the Cha8anons had presented the tomahawk to the Hurons, that the Cha8anons had declared eternal war on the English who had seized two parties of Cha8anons, one near the Testes Plates and the other close by. They brought back thirty English prisoners and scalps, which have been sent as messages to the nations, to wit, four to the Tsonnontouans who they think will not receive them, two to the Hurons which they have received, a scalp to the commander of Fort Duquesne, and the others were reserved for the savage nations nearest Belle Rivière. The Cha8anons had sent belts to the Tchikachats and the Testes Plates to invite them to join them against the English, assuring them they would do all in their power to prevent the nations from attacking them.

The Hurons had raised the hatchet, but would not declare their intentions nor act before next spring.

The reply of the Hurons to the Cha8anons was, "We are in mourning because of the misfortune which has befallen you, my little brothers. As you consider us your elders, we are ready to help you in your affliction.

I, Sastaretsy, chief of the Hurons, am sick at heart to see your eyes full of water and blood. Here, my little brothers, is a string of wampum that I give you to dry your tears and to mend your heart while waiting for the response you will receive from your Father Onontio. Take courage, it is Sastaretsy who tells you this, and who will keep his promise to you. In the name of the Hurons, I received with joy, the slave, the scalp, the belt and the hatchet you gave me, but the hatchet will remain lowered until Father Onontio has told you and us where it shall fall.

The complaint of the Cha8anons, according to what Glorieux reported, was that two men of that nation had gone to an English fort on the Riviere Chinodaihta where they had constructed three forts, quite close together, to aid either in the siege of Fort Duquesne or in the building of another fort on Belle Riviere where the Chinodaihta empties into it 40 leagues below Fort Duquesne, and 25 leagues from the said fort, cutting across a neck of land formed by the meandering of the Ohio. That, on the arrival of these two men, they were seized. A chief, who was troubled because they did not return, went to the said fort where he was arrested and put in prison. He escaped by forcing the bars of the grating. The fortnight he spent there without seeing the sun seemed very long to him. He reported to his village that he thought his two companions were dead.

Six Cha8anons had been to a fort in the Virginia country to make friendly overtures, and the English had killed them. This news, true or imaginary, is doubtless responsible for the strong alliance contracted between the Cha8anons and the Hurons. The future will reveal the truth of the intentions of this latter, restless nation, which I do not believe is acting in good faith, especially when they give the erroneous idea that, joined with their savage allies, they will force the English of Virginia, Carolina, and Georgia to abandon this country and seek refuge in Europe.

[January] 2nd,

Thursday, fine warm weather, the sun appeared at intervals. It thawed in several places where the sun shone. There was no more snow on the ground. Carts were used along the borders of the river where the ice extended out 50 toises.

[January] 3rd,

Friday, at six o'clock in the morning, west wind, it started to freeze, and at two o'clock in the afternoon the sun came out, causing it to thaw. Tehata, Huron chief,



and Glorieux, the latter arrived the 1st of this month, came to see me after the compliments usual to such a visit had been exchanged. I gave them each a drink of brandy, then we talked over the news they had brought. Glorieux seemed to me to be prejudiced, or else he feared the English, for he spoke with admiration of all they said or did. I annoyed him with facts about which he did not have too much knowledge. He told Tehata, whom I understood a little because he spoke Iroquois, that I did not know the news. I pretended I did, and told them that as the news did not often coincide, they should tell what they knew, and afterwards, I would tell them what I had learned. He replied that the chief who had told us, knew as much about it as he.

[January] 4th,            Saturday, bright sunshine. It thawed in places sheltered from the west wind.

[January] 5th,            Sunday, bright sun, freezing a little.

[January] 6th,            Monday, froze hard during the night. The river was full of drift-ice. Toward noon it thawed, west southwest wind. From 4 o'clock in the evening until midnight it was mild.

The Huron, named Glorieux, who arrived here from the ChaSanons the 1st of this month, left to go back there. The commander was pleased to entrust him with two strings of wampum to express to the ChaSanons his sorrow for those who had been killed, saying that these two strings of wampum were handkerchiefs the French gave them to dry their tears.

[January] 7th,            Tuesday, bright sun, no ice on the river, thawing, light northeast wind.

[January] 8th,            Wednesday, same kind of weather, but warmer sun. Nothing was said about sending in the posts needed for the fort.

[January] 9th,            Thursday, bright sunshine, warmer than yesterday, the wind south southwest.

[January] 10th,           Friday, weather very mild, it rained a little during the night and did not freeze. The sun appeared at one o'clock.

[January] 11th,           Saturday, it froze during the night, the sun appeared, southeast wind, no ice on the river. Some Frenchmen arrived from Saguinaw.

[January] 12th,           Sunday, bright sunshine, fairly cold, the wind west southwest.

- [January] 13th, Monday, bright sun, thawed during the day and froze at night, northeast wind. No posts were brought to finish the fort, which worried me. I feared the thaw would begin before the materials were taken from the woods.
- [January] 14th, Tuesday, the sun scarcely appeared, west southwest wind. It rained from six in the evening until nine o'clock. At this time two Frenchmen arrived from Sandoské, after  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days' journey over the ice of the lake.
- [January] 15th, Wednesday, weather cloudy and mild; it did not freeze during the night; the season seemed favorable to put the posts already delivered in place, ready to be set at need, but I had no power to order the work done.
- [January] 16th, Thursday, it froze in the morning, northeast wind. Snow fell until six o'clock, light snow fell again from eleven o'clock until evening. There were only six inches on the ground when it stopped snowing.
- [January] 17th, Friday, the sun appeared; it was mild in the evening and froze during the night.
- [January] 18th, Saturday, there was a fog until ten o'clock, after that the sun was out until sundown. Colas Laselle brought some posts.
- [January] 19th, Sunday, fine mild weather, there was a light rain from ten o'clock until midnight.
- [January] 20th, Monday, some wet snow fell, it was very mild, northeast wind.
- [January] 21st, Tuesday, I found the wine had leaked out of one of my barrels. West southwest wind, at noon the wind southeast, quite strong. It rained until three o'clock, and rained again from 9 o'clock till midnight.
- [January] 22nd, Wednesday, no snow on the ground, started to freeze at noon, cold at night, the wind north northwest.
- [January] 23rd, Thursday, the sun appeared, it was cold all night and all day. However, towards evening it was warmer, the wind west northwest. The missionary took up a collection for the church; I gave him a pound of candles. The inhabitants of the fort and the countryside could have profited by this day to get in their stakes.

[January] 24th, Friday, froze during the night. In the morning the wind was west northwest, at noon, to the south. The sun appeared at intervals.

[January] 25th, Saturday, it froze a little during the night. The sun was bright all day, it thawed, southeast wind. The savages have not brought in any meat since summer. Several claimed it was because dealers and inhabitants had been forbidden to buy it to resell, as they had done in the past. It may be that some of the merchants had told the savages they would no longer take game in payment as had been customary, because of the prohibition which had been read from the door of the church accompanied by the beating of drums. Whatever the reason is, we are short of meat. Formerly, the trader to whom a savage owed twenty beavers, took in game what the savage gave him on account, and the rest in furs until all was paid. It is certain that without the supply of deer, bear, and game that the savages furnish to Detroit, the greater part of the inhabitants of the fort and countryside would pass the year without meat, and the French species of animals would soon be destroyed.

They tell me that Mikinak, Outa8ois chief, lamented that he had been obliged to part with his land on Presque Isle because of a belt the commander had given him, and that this chief was to go down to Montreal in the spring. Two savages arrived bringing letters, one for the commander and one for the missionary, from the Jesuit Father who is at Rivière du Portage near Sandoské. He informed the Father he would not tell him the news he had written to the commander, confident he would pass it on to him, himself. It is said the commander had forbidden the two messengers to tell what they might know.

[January] 26th, Sunday, I told the commander I thought we should work on the fort, and informed him of my reasons for this. My reasons must have appeared good to him, because when I proposed that he order each of those who were to furnish posts to bring them in before February 10th, he approved and had it proclaimed as the people were coming from Vespers. I added that the weather would soon be fine, and that the posts could be set as the ground had entirely thawed. He was not of that opinion. Those who had not wished to build the fort were persuaded that the posts set in winter could not hold, and did not want to do anything while the ground was frozen. Winter and summer are the same to one who is sufficiently interested. The source of this argument was that four posts, badly driven in on the side toward the water, had broken. That happened because I could not be present when they were set, as I was busy laying out the work in another part of the fort. Besides, these piles had been set during the month of October. Had



less prejudice been shown on this point, and more foresight in the preparation of the materials, we should have been in a position to profit by the good weather to finish the fort which would have been enclosed if I had had the authority in my hands. But it seems that the new order will not be more effective than any of the other orders given up to the present.

[January] 27th, Monday, bright sunshine, calm and warm. I went to the country in an open carriage; the ground was completely thawed. A man came to tell me that the Hurons and the Chascons were plotting evil deeds, and asked that an officer be sent to the Rapide de Sandoské to attend their council, as the Hurons had changed the commander's speech represented by the two strings of wampum he had given Glorionx.

[January] 28th, Tuesday, it rained an hour in the morning, the sun appeared at noon, it did not freeze during the night and it was very mild during the day. No more ice remained along the river's edge, the wind S.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.

[January] 29th, Wednesday, much ice passed along, it was very mild during the day and did not freeze at night, wind calm.

[January] 30th, Thursday, they did not work today at preparing the posts to finish the enclosure of the fort, nor yesterday, nor the day before that, although the beautiful weather should have spurred them on. I went to the country with the priest in a carriage. The ground was not frozen, the sun appeared at intervals, a light wind, E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E.

A man named Colas La Selle brought the posts he was to furnish for the fort, but the others equally under obligation did not think of doing so.

[January] 31st, Friday, it froze at night and thawed during the day. They did not place the stakes for the enclosure, which would have been a good precautionary measure. Light wind to the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E.

#### February 1755

[February] 1st, Saturday, froze during the night, fine during the day, in the evening the northeast wind increased considerably until midnight, and it did not freeze.

I looked at the box where I had planted the dried grapes and figs on the 16th of last September. I found them exactly as I had left them. I had, however, taken



the precaution of preparing them in different ways, soaking some and planting others dry in hotbeds.

[February] 2nd, Sunday, a very violent S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S. wind, it started to freeze at 10 o'clock in the morning and continued until midnight. There was no sign of carrying out the order to bring posts to the fort. I do not know if it is because the news indicated the ill-will of the savages or because I am anxious to see this work finished, which I consider very important during the present dispute between the English and us over Belle Rivière. Last summer, when I was at Presque Isle, I heard our men talking of the attachment the savages appeared to have for the English, despite the blow they had just received. I always thought the belt the Cha8anons had given the Hurons very mysterious, and I talked it over with the commander when he gave me an opportunity, but since he doubtless had more authentic news than any that I could tell him, he did not pay as much attention as I might have wished, and the work has made no progress.

[February] 3rd, Monday, it froze from midnight until noon. The S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S. wind abated somewhat, at noon the sun appeared.

[February] 4th, Tuesday, it froze from midnight to half-past eight o'clock, a light S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S. wind, which had blown since the second of the month, cast the ice onto the north bank of the river where it formed along the shore, but was not strong enough to hold up vehicles. At noon the wind turned to the south southwest.

At three o'clock, a Frenchman and an Ouyatanons savage arrived. M. de Muy told me he brought no news, but according to what M. Belestre, commander of the Miamis, wrote his sister, we were to question the savage in order to hear some interesting news. We learned from the said savage that the Cha8anons had sent belts to the Ouyatanons and to the Miamis to induce those nations to assist them in recalling the English to Belle Rivière. I believe this news more readily as I mistrust the savages since Mikinack, the Outa8ois chief, told the commander last autumn that he would not leave the fort because there would be plenty of news and a great deal happening before summer, and since that time the savages have been talking in riddles.

[February] 5th, Wednesday, the weather was mild during the night, the sun appeared at intervals during the day, light winds to the W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W. and the weather mild. At 5 o'clock in the evening west wind, it froze from eight o'clock until midnight. M. de Rigauville to whom I wished to recount the news, told me he had heard it yesterday and had told the commander who did

not seem to think it important, and who told him that the commander of the Ouyatannons had written him that his savages were ready to march against the English at Belle Rivière, and that the commander of the Miamis told him that his savages were going to Belle Rivière more to trade with the English than for anything else.

A man named de Peltaux worked at getting his posts in place, ready to set them out when it pleases the commander to order it done. M. Navarre sowed rye on his land. I learned in the evening that the commander, on hearing certain news from an Ouyatannons savage, had answered him that he was somewhat fearful because, as I have been informed, this officer had not told him of the belts brought to him [the Ouyatannons] by Latortû, Cha8anons chief. I could not vouch for the truth of this indiscretion, although the Ouyatannons savage had said on arriving that the French chief who had been to see him had strongly urged him to tell the news to the chief at Detroit.

[February] 6th, Thursday, the wind west southwest. There was little sun and it did not thaw, around noon a little snow fell which melted on reaching the ground.

M. de Rigauville told me that the commander had learned from a man named Berthe that the Cha8anons had given some belts as the Ouyatannons savage had reported.

In the evening a man who was in irons escaped. Not having a sentry to guard him, they had locked him up in a house. At nine o'clock 45 men were commanded to form three detachments at daybreak. It froze hard during the night.

[February] 7th, Friday, the sun appeared at intervals, the wind S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W., and it was cold.

M. de Lamotte told me he had talked to the Ouyatannons savage to find out the news. The savage replied that the commander had forbidden him to talk about it.

We found the man who had escaped from irons the evening before in the house of an inhabitant a quarter of a league from the fort. He had gone to bed there very quietly at six o'clock in the evening. The wind turned to west northwest, very violent and cold. Two thirds of the river was frozen over. We could not see very clearly as a light snow was falling. It stopped early.

[February] 8th,            Saturday, northwest wind, but not so strong as the day before. The snow that had fallen did not cover the ground, and could hardly be seen except in places where it had been blown into drifts.

The carts went along on the shore-ice.

The sun appeared at intervals, and at three in the afternoon the weather became milder; at 10 in the evening a little snow fell.

This would have been a good day to get the posts from the woods, but I had not heard that anyone did this.

[February] 9th,            Sunday, the wind west southwest, it did not thaw but was not cold; at ten in the evening an inch of snow fell, the sun did not come out.

[February] 10th,           Monday, weather mild the past 24 hours. The sun appeared about noon. Light northeast wind, one might almost say a breeze.

A savage arrived from Rivière St. Joseph, M. de St. Ours, commander of said fort, informed M. de Muy that if he needed some of his savages in the spring, he would send some.

Lamorigny, Jesuit Father, wrote that M. St. Ours had been ill for a long time.

M. de Muy told me that the commander of the Ouyatannons wrote him that Forgeron, chief of a band of that nation, was ready to raise the hatchet against the English.

[February] 11th,           Shrove Tuesday, the sun appeared, it was not cold, light W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W. wind.

Yesterday was the day appointed for those who had posts to furnish to bring them to the fort. No one had brought any since the 26th of last month when the commander's order was proclaimed, although the weather had been very favorable.

An Outa8ois chief, named Acha8abemé', arrived from Saguinan. The rumor had spread during the past month that the commander had sent a young Outa8ois to his winter camp to get him and to inform Mikinak, chief of the Outa8ois village of Detroit.

Acha8abemé' reported that the Outa8ois and Sauteurs from Saguinaw intended to form a large party to make war on the Poute8atamis of Rivière St. Joseph.

[February] 12th,        Wednesday, the sun shone and it thawed considerably, there was no snow on the ground, and ice only along the banks of the river.

West wind until nine in the evening when it turned to the south; it did not freeze during the night.

They began to prepare some posts for the fort.

[February] 13th,        Thursday, wind to the south, not cold. They worked at preparing posts for the fort. I made two visits to show those working on the angles how to go about making the mortises. There were only four men at work. Four men left this morning to go to their winter quarters near Sandoské; they had come to the fort to enjoy the festival.

At one o'clock in the afternoon the Ouyatannon savage, who arrived the 4th of this month, departed. He returned with the Frenchmen who went to get the pirogues which were carrying goods to this post, and which had been left in the Rivière des Miamis.

I had questioned this savage about the news that everyone was spreading either by letters or otherwise, and he told me the following which I am writing in my journal not as certain nor true, but as the belief of this savage who was said to have been at the council where the belts were given. I know one can not depend too much on Indian news, but I think it is wise to make a note of this.

Speeches the Cha8anons gave to Latortue, of the Miamis nation, last autumn when the leaves began to fall:

By a belt.

Latortue, I formerly bound you to me with a belt, I release you now to go to your village.

By a second belt.

This belt, Latortûe, is to remind you to try to learn the thoughts of the Miamis, Ouyatannons, Pianguichins, Kikapoux and Mascoutin, and to try to bring in the warriors of these nations, their women and children, in other words, their villages.



By a third belt.

If we speak true, my brothers, we considered the stem of the peace pipe we gave you in the past to be broken, but it is only bent, we can straighten it out and make good use of it.

By a fourth belt.

My brothers, here are the last belts I shall give you. You have always listened to your father, the French. Open your eyes today, my brothers, here is what troubled you, open your eyes and look at the sun, and you will see clearly.

Fifth speech without belt.

Onontio sent his son to speak to Latortûe by two strings of wampum which Latortûe has kept secretly saying he did not receive them.

Sixth speech without belt.

By a very large belt, which the Loups have given to the Cha8annons, he invites them to take up their villages and come to them where there would be as many belts to receive them as two horses could carry.

Seventh speech without belt.

If all of you come to see us, my brothers, come when the grass is half way to your knees, so we may all assemble together. This is when the French and the English are to fight each other, and we shall see who is stronger.

They assured me that Latortûe, bearer of the preceding speeches was the one who, during the year of the war, carried belts to these same nations mentioned above, and incited them to kill the French.

[February] 14th, Friday, fair weather, the wind southwest, at 7 o'clock in the evening northwest, the sun appeared at intervals. They set out two rows of posts at the Royal bastion, proof that they could have done as much in places where they were needed if they had acted with more foresight. I set a peg, which had been pulled out last autumn, to mark the angle of the fortified curtain and the right flank of the Poute8atamis bastion, because they were getting the posts ready to set out there, and I did not want to keep them waiting.

[February] 15th,        Saturday, the sun shone all day, thawing little. They placed 34 posts in the curtain between the Royal Bastion and the Poute8atamis bastion. They set three rows, amounting to 50 posts, to the left front of the Royal Bastion.

According to the count I made today, they had brought in 260 posts since December 31st, and many more are needed. If all those who were to furnish them had done so, there would be many due the king, besides those he already had and the ones the commander had lent to private individuals last autumn.

Wind was northwest. At 7 o'clock in the evening the wind died down, it became calm.

[February] 16th,        Sunday, fair weather until noon, then northwest wind and snow, which ceased to fall at 4 o'clock in the evening, when there were two inches of snow on the ground. Strong wind continued all night from the same direction.

This afternoon at 4 o'clock a deer came into the fort through a gap and walked about. The children coming from Catechism ran after it, which made it go out through another gap, and run into the woods.

[February] 17th,        Monday, froze night and day, violent west north-west wind. The river was filled with drift-ice. The wind became calm during the day; it snowed from one until five o'clock in the afternoon, about 4 inches of snow remained on the ground.

[February] 18th,        Tuesday, cold weather, the shore-ice was partially broken up by the northeast wind. The article I wrote about snow yesterday applies today.

[February] 19th,        Wednesday, the sun appeared, a very strong west wind, freezing night and day. They went along the shore-ice with wagon-loads of wood. A great deal of ice came down from Lake St. Clair.

[February] 20th,        Thursday, the sun shone in the morning, but was covered by clouds the rest of the day. It was cold toward evening, the wind to the north.

There was little snow on the country roads, the ground could be seen in places.

A great deal of ice from Lake St. Clair passed by.

I learned that several days ago a drunken Poute8atamis had frozen to death one night, having fallen into a stream which flows over the land of Bonhomme Barois. He had succeeded in getting himself only half out of the water.

[February] 21st, Friday, a lot of ice from Lake St. Clair passed by, the sun appeared a little about noon, cold at night, in the middle of the day it moderated but became colder again in the evening. I use the term cold, I can find no other to express that it did not thaw and did not freeze more than usual. I could, however, compare this cold to the weather at the beginning of March in Quebec when it is fine.

They could have profited by the shore-ice, which was strong enough to support wagons, to bring in the posts necessary to finish the enclosure of the fort. I believe someone told me they did not intend to bring them until the spring in cajeux. It is well to remember that each inhabitant was expected to provide only 12 posts, and that it would take longer to make and bring in his cajeux than it would to make three wagon trips, at the most, to the fort, particularly as it is said to be extremely windy in the spring and the cajeux might be lost and the work on the fort delayed.

I have not gone out for three days because I was suffering with a pain in my knees caused by a fall I had in Acadia, going from Beausejour to Gasparaux to lay out the fort. My horse fell against a tree, and my knee was caught between the two causing me great injury. Since then, whenever the weather is cold, I feel some pain.

[February] 22nd, Saturday, the sun came out the same time as yesterday. The river was stopped up. A sort of dam was formed by the ice coming from Lake St. Clair to the Huron village point, which stopped the ice. At 3 o'clock there was a misty snow-fall.

[February] 23rd, Sunday, the sun did not appear, weather cold, the wind north of east. The inhabitants along the Rivière aux Canards crossed the river on the ice from the Pointe de Montreal to Rivière Rouge.

[February] 24th, Monday, weather cold, northwest wind.

I measured the width of the Rivière du Detroit, 60 perches from the stream by Claude Campault's mill. Farther down the river is the place where I took a point to cross from. I sighted at a small stream above the Huron village, so that the transversal line from Campault's stream to the said stream or coulee, runs S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E. 4 degrees S. by the

compass, and the distance from one bank of the river to the other, taken almost on the square with the north bank of said river, and at high water, following the transversal line S.E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. 4 degrees south, is 115 perches of 18 standard feet, which makes  $11\frac{1}{2}$  arpents.

The channel of the river is nearer the south bank than the north one, and also at the former it is very near land. It is not the same on the north. I had it measured and found it eighteen perches away, taken at the point of the crossing and following the same line.

The ice was solid, I think even horses could have gone over it, but as it was very uneven we thought it best not to risk it.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon two Frenchmen and two Iroquois arrived from Belle Rivière bringing letters from the commander of Fort Duquesne for the commander at Detroit, dated January 20th and 21st. The news, in substance, was that the English were preparing to attack Fort Duquesne next spring, and advised him that he was to have the savages of his post ready to go to the aid of Fort Duquesne. To get them there in time, he was to send back the couriers informing him of the steps he intended to take and the approximate number of savages he would be able to send, so that the Fort Duquesne commander could send back said couriers to inform him when he should send them. That three days ago he had sent a courier to the general telling him the news, and the decision he had taken to send to Detroit, where some of our domiciliated savages are, to request the English not to advance any further. The general replied that we should bring all the savages to Lake Erie. The speeches given on both sides are given here, but not verbatim, as I omitted many of the points, not, however, what the English said to our resident savages by a belt — the Hurons, Miamis, Ouyatonnons, Cha8-anons and Sauteurs are our brothers and strongly support us.

We learned that the water had risen considerably at Fort Duquesne because of the flooding of Belle Rivière, which occurs frequently when there have been several days of rain.

They say that M. Rouillé had left the ministry, and it was he who succeeded M. de Machault, common counsellor to the Conseil Royal, controller general of the finances.



That M. de Vaudreuil was to be in Quebec at the end of April.

That M. de Rigaud and M. Bigot had gone to France.

That M. Péan and Lemer cier had also gone to France.

M. de Rigauville told me he had received a letter from Fort Duquesne informing him that M. Montmidy, cadet, carrying letters to Detroit, became ill and stopped at Niagara with the letters entrusted to him.

M. du Muy told me he had learned that forty savages from Saguinan had raised the war-cry against the Chasansons, and that he had told Ach8abemé, chief of this village, that he should abstain from doing their will, because he was going to inform the Chasansons of their design.

[February] 25th, Tuesday, weather cold and fine, the wind north north-west. They brought posts for the enclosure; more snow on the ground.

[February] 26th, Wednesday, weather same as yesterday. Mikinak, Outa8ois chief, died. He was covered with a belt, a flag and the customary clothing.

A few posts were brought for the enclosure. One can no longer cross the river on the ice, as it is unsafe.

[February] 27th, Thursday, weather mild, wind north northeast. At 9 o'clock in the evening the river was free of the ice which obstructed it. Some posts were brought in.

[February] 28th, Friday, fine weather, the river free of ice. Some ice came down from Lake St. Clair. The wagons went along on the shore-ice.

#### March 1755

[March] 1st, Saturday, departure of a courier for St. Joseph to impart news from Belle Rivière.

The courier, who arrived here the 24th of last February, departed at 2 o'clock for Belle Rivière.

The savages who were in winter quarters were given notice to be ready to go to Detroit as soon as navigation opens, to listen to the speech of their father, Onontio.

[March] 2nd, Sunday, an inch of snow fell, it froze from midnight until 3 o'clock, and thawed the rest of the day. It froze again at night, west wind. A party of 40 Saut-eurs arrived to go to war against the Testes Plates. The commander stopped them.

[March] 3rd, Monday, very cold, the wind northwest. Ten Saut-eurs left to continue their route, and 30 returned to their winter quarters, according to what they told the commander. At 8 o'clock in the evening the wind northeast; a little snow fell.

[March] 4th, Tuesday, cold, the sun appeared, at 10 o'clock I left in a cart for Rivière à Guignolet to the north of Lake Sainte Claire, and about three leagues from said lake as can be seen by the map I am joining to this journal.

At 4 o'clock two Iroquois arrived from Belle Rivière bringing letters from the commander of Fort Duquesne who wrote to me to come there if M. du Muy, commander at Detroit, would give his consent. When I offered to go, he said that he would keep me to lead the savages of his post who were going to Fort Duquesne.

[March] 5th, Wednesday, weather very cold, the wind west northwest. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon M. de Muy told me I could leave for Fort Duquesne as he did not want to be responsible for what might happen if, for want of someone who had knowledge of the fortification, Fort Duquesne was exposed to danger. Besides M. de Contrecoeur, commander of said fort, would not ask him for savages until he had sent other couriers, whereas he told me that it was more important that I abandon this uncertain trip to go on one which seemed more urgent.

[March] 6th, Thursday, we wrote to Montreal to inform the general that I was leaving for Fort Duquesne. We sent the letters by two savages who were to deliver them to the commander at Fort Niagara, who would forward them to Montreal.

I finished packing my few belongings which I left with M. du Muy.

I took the level of the land on the two small hills of the fort to survey from the river to the top of the hill.

The wind was northwest, somewhat cold.

- [March] 7th, Friday, it snowed and some rain fell. I measured from the little post which is in the curtain between the Outa8ois and Dauphin bastions as far as the channel for boats, that is to say, where they can land. I found it to be 54 toises; the wind was N.E.. $\frac{1}{4}$  N.; the weather cloudy and cold.
- [March] 8th, Saturday, at five-thirty wind west southwest, with rain; at noon to the south; at 7 o'clock west northwest; at 11 o'clock hail and rain, very violent northwest wind.
- [March] 9th, Sunday, weather cold in the morning, thawing at noon; I worked at taking some measurements for the plan of the fort and, with M. Navarre, finished taking notes concerning the land belonging to the inhabitants.
- [March] 10th, Monday, I felt I should leave. The rivers were thawing and filled with drift ice, which prevented my going.
- Cold during the night, wind to the north; at seven in the morning it turned to the south and remained there all day; the sun did not come out.
- I had everything that I needed made ready, in order to leave the next day in a pirogue, and to follow the ice down the Rivière du Detroit.
- At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, it thundered and rained, which caused the weather to become milder. At 8 o'clock the stars appeared and it did not freeze, which made me hope I could leave the next day.
- [March] 15th, Saturday, the wind was so violent it was impossible to embark. I decided to let the two Frenchmen who had brought me in a pirogue, to take it back to the fort, and make the trip by land with two Iroquois. We departed at 8 o'clock and at 4 o'clock we camped half a league beyond Pointe aux Feviers. We sank in the mud in several places; weather cold. We passed two rivers, one in the middle of the cove, and the other near Pointe aux Feviers. The Indians were so heavily laden with my equipment that they were obliged to make a sled with our bear skins. I think we made five and a half leagues today.
- [March] 16th, Sunday, weather fine but cold, not cold enough, however, to enable us to cross the streams and rivers on the ice without breaking through. We passed along the Riviere a Tous-sain; it is wide and not very deep, and is situated  $1\frac{1}{4}$  leagues from Pointe aux Feviers.

Below is a sketch of this river.

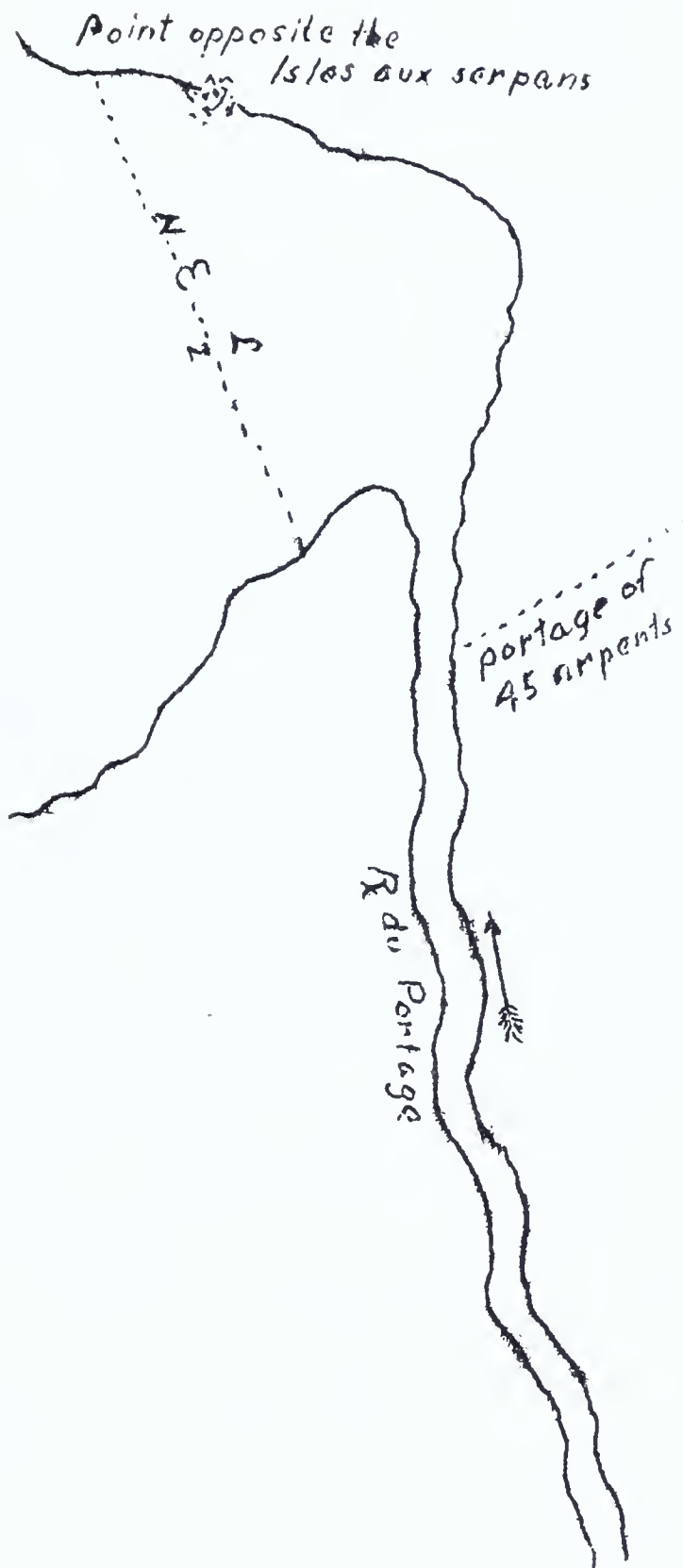


Walking was very difficult in this country, which is full of hot springs, and when we had to leave the land to walk on the shore-ice, we risked breaking our legs. The ice was not solid, and often had no water underneath. We saw a great many swans, bustards, ducks and other game, but so wild we could not get near them. Two of us arrived at Rivière du Portage at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. It was necessary for Thomas, the Iroquois from the Lake des deux Montagnes who was with me, to go around the shallows to get a pirogue on the other side of the river, and it was five o'clock before I got across. I left him to wait for the other savage who had remained behind. I went to Lake Sandoské to see whether we could cross it in a canoe or on the ice. I arrived there at half past six, walking in the water all the way, as the portage is flooded at this season. I found the lake open, and fired three shots, which was the signal I had given the Iroquois, who joined me at 6:30, without having seen his comrade, who did not come that night. We fired our guns several times to make ourselves heard by the French traders on the southeast side of Lake Dotsandoské; there was no response. We had nothing for our supper but a teal. The savage, who remained behind, was carrying the provisions.

I examined the Rivière du Portage and found it different in appearance at this season than it was in August of last year, when I crossed it. Then the grass was higher, and the water lower.

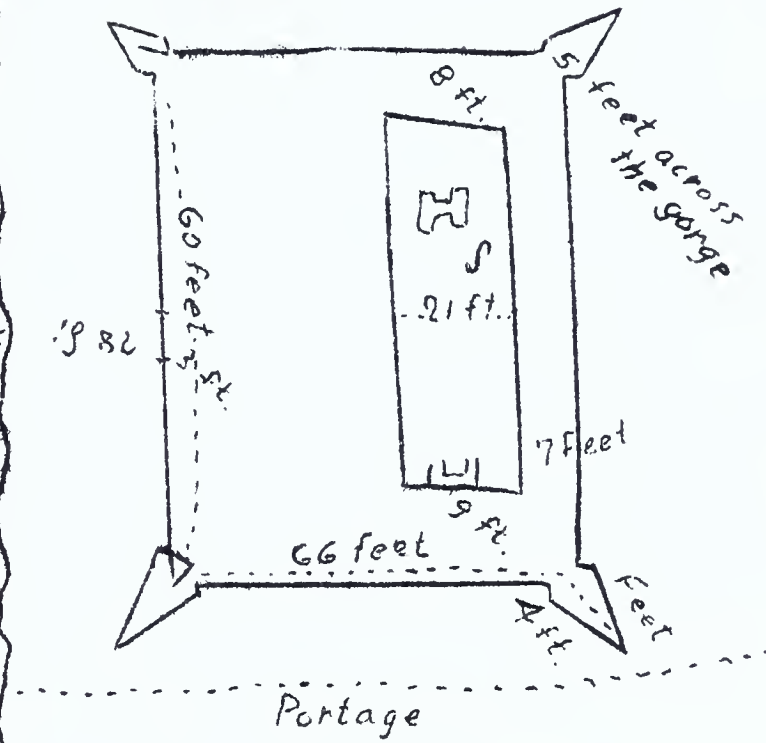
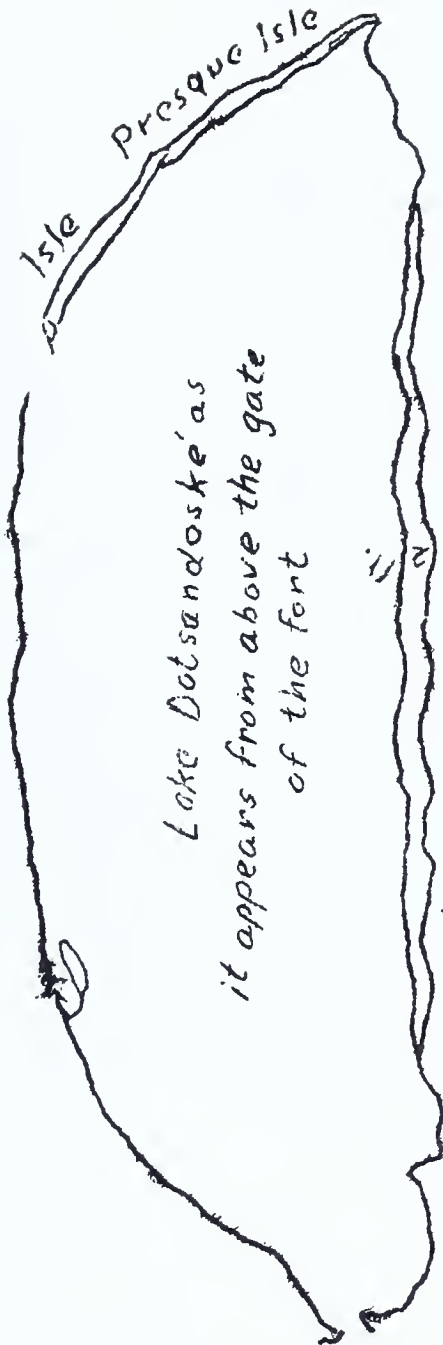
Point opposite the Isles aux Serpents.







Plan of the Fort  
built on the North Shore  
of Lake Dotsandoske,  
now abandoned.







Plan of the fort, now abandoned, which was built on the north shore of Lake Dotsandoské.

Lake Dotsandoské as it appears from above the gate of the fort.

[March] 17th,

Monday, early in the morning the Iroquois from the lake went to look for the one from Belle Rivière who had not caught up with us the day before. I raised a flag on the edge of the water, and fired several shots to attract the traders on the opposite shore, but they did not hear any more than they had the day before.

At noon the two savages arrived. We put a canoe large enough for three, which we found, into the water and crossed 3 leagues above Rivière du Poisson Doré. I estimate it to be a league and a half across.

I arrived at the place of Sieur Gouin, a trader, at four in the afternoon. We were a long time in crossing because our canoe leaked, and I was kept busy bailing out the water while the two savages paddled. I learned that the couriers who went to the fort ...

[March] 18th,

Tuesday, there was a cold, south wind; the sun appeared. The savages made a saddle for the horse which was to carry our provisions to the little village, where we wished to secure a guide. I sent some Hurons with the interpreter whom I charged particularly with this commission, and to buy a horse for me. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the interpreter and the savage returned without a guide or a horse. Our two savages resolved to go to Presque Isle in a canoe. This, added to the Hurons' information, that the rivers had overflowed and filled the woods with water, decided me to go in a canoe. I had a six-seater equipped and prepared, ready to leave early the next morning. I wrote to the commander of Detroit and sent him a list of the petty supplies provided by Sieur Gouin for the equipment of this canoe, which I might leave at the Rivière à Seguin, which is called Gayahagué.

[March] 19th,

Wednesday, I was unable to leave before noon as we had to gum the canoe which leaked. I camped at the foot of Lake Sandoské, in a place sheltered from the wind. The weather was fine. We went to the point of the lake to see if there was much ice, and found some shore ice, and as the weather continued fair, we hoped to go where we had planned without much difficulty. I estimated that we had made  $4\frac{1}{2}$  leagues.

Sketch of the entrance of Lake Dotsandoské and view of the land to the west, with a plan extending from the swamp to the portage of the village of Anioton.



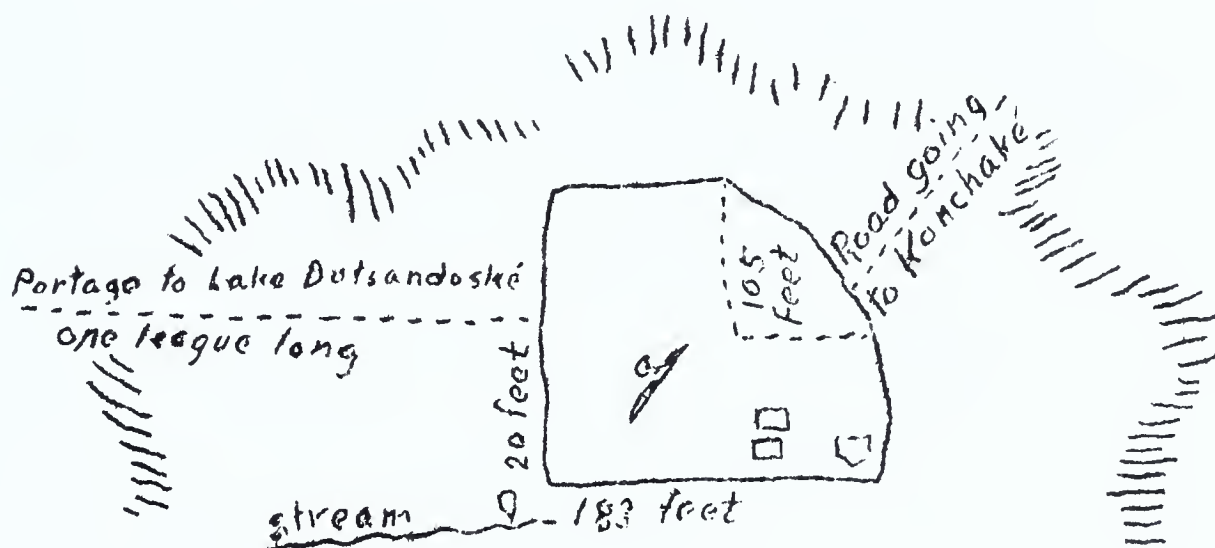
[March] 20th,

Thursday, there was a violent north wind. We did not depart because we were unable to launch our canoe.

[March] 21st,

Friday, at seven in the morning, we embarked to go to the foot of the swamp, east of Lake Dotsandoské. We made about a league and a half, and then crossed the portage to the great lake, which we found full of ice. This made us decide to retrace our steps to the portage of the Anioton village, which we did. At 5 o'clock, we arrived at this village, where only three cabins and some palisades remained. We resolved to take the Couchaké route, even though it is long, and asked a Huron to guide us. I offered him a beaver to take us to Rivière à Seguin, but he did not want to, saying his nation would think he was going to war. This, together with the difficulties the same nation had caused about a similar affair some days before, made me think that, unless forced to it, they did not want to help us in any way which might give us an advantage on the Ohio.

We were in the place where the Hurons took refuge after they had left Isle du Bois Blanc and killed the Frenchmen. They had built a fort here, of which a plan follows.



[March] 22nd,

Saturday, one of my savages left early in the morning to go to Sieur Gouin's on the lake, to get a horse. We prepared our packs, ready to leave in the afternoon, if he should return in time. I wrote Sieur Gouin to send two Frenchmen for his canoe and the rigging, left at the lake on the portage of this village.

There was no more snow on the ground, which had caused the woods to be full of water. We had found plenty of it coming to the village the day before.

At 5 o'clock the savage who had gone for his horse arrived. The Frenchmen were to come for their canoe tomorrow.

I wrote to M. du May and to M<sup>re</sup>. de Léry on March 23rd.

The weather fine, a little rain in the morning.

An Agnier, wintering three days' march from this village, arrived. He was going to Sandoské to trade. He told me he had a horse to sell, and I accepted the offer. He promised to rejoin me in two days on his return from trading, and give it to me.

[March] 23rd,

Sunday, at half past eight in the morning, we left by the Couchaké road and marched until four o'clock, when we camped on the bank of a little river which flows to the eastward — I believe it is a fork of the Rivière au Vermillon. Our general course was southward, and we covered seven leagues. At two o'clock we crossed the Rivière au Vermillon, of which a sketch follows.





The north side is steep, the south side is not; it is 12 to 15 toises wide and two feet deep. From 10 o'clock until noon, we crossed a meadow covered with water where there were a number of crayfish. From this meadow to our camping place, we passed two very tall locust trees with half their branches under water. Our road was good only from the village to the meadow, because that road was along the ridge of the highlands.

The Agnier left this morning to go to trade at Sieur Gouin's. I gave him the letter for Madame de Léry, and the one for M. du Muy, which he was to give to Gouin.

It started to rain at 5 o'clock, the wind was east north-east.

[March] 24th,

Monday, the rain ceased at 8:15, at 9, we departed; at noon, crossed Rivière au Vermillon, above is a drawing of it. At two o'clock we crossed a tributary. In the one crossed at noon there was a foot of water; it is 7 or 8 toises wide. It is necessary to descend and to climb up again to cross it — that is to say, it is between two rather steep hills. At 5 o'clock, we camped at one of the forks of this Rivière au Vermillon. Our course was south, we covered 7 leagues. We met a Huron, who told us that 20 Chasaneons had arrived at Sandoské. I thought it might be the ones who were going to talk at Detroit. At 6 o'clock, it started to rain and continued until midnight.

[March] 25th,

Tuesday, it rained from midnight to eight o'clock, then ended with a storm, raining in torrents. At 8:15, we departed and made camp at 5:15. I estimated that we had gone east 8 leagues, we left the road and tried to cut across toward Couchaké. We passed several rivers, large and small, whose waters flowed to the right and left of the road; we did not know their names, the largest may have been five toises wide.

[March] 26th,

Wednesday, we departed at 8 o'clock and at 6 o'clock we camped. Our route was southeast, we made many detours to avoid bad country, and travelled 8 leagues. At noon we passed a river which flowed eastward; it is six toises wide and two feet deep. In the afternoon we passed several small ones. We saw the droppings of Illinois buffalo. I think that tomorrow morning we will cross the heights, and that the river we discovered at noon is the Couchaké. The weather was fine all day.

[March] 27th,

Thursday, we departed at 8:15, at 11 o'clock we came upon the main trail going to Couchaké. We went southeast, and at 2 o'clock discovered a branch of the Rivière Couchaké which we followed until 5:15, when we camped. At 4:15, we had passed a place on the bank of this river where some Hurons had

taken refuge ... made at Detroit. It is called the cabin of the fugitives. Afterward, we found the road. At a quarter past 11 we went S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.E. This branch of the river is 7 to 8 toises wide. One can go down it in a canoe. It was cloudy all day, a little rain fell; at 6:30 it rained violently, and continued all night. We made 8 leagues.

[March] 28th,

Friday, the rain stopped at 7 o'clock, and at 8 o'clock we departed; at 11 o'clock we followed the river again. On the way to the river we had passed a great many mountains; at 4:45, we arrived at Quionhishinse--which means in Huron, boiling water; at 3 o'clock, we passed an escarpment along the river where there was a very narrow and dangerous trail through the rocks, two arpents wide. Since noon, over about two leagues of winding road, we climbed up and down many mountains and tortuous rocks to a place where fugitive Hurons had taken shelter. There is a river which flows into the Couchaké; at this point it is fully 10 toises wide, the Kouchaké is the same width. Our course was south southeast, and we covered  $8\frac{1}{4}$  leagues. We had rain storms part of the afternoon.

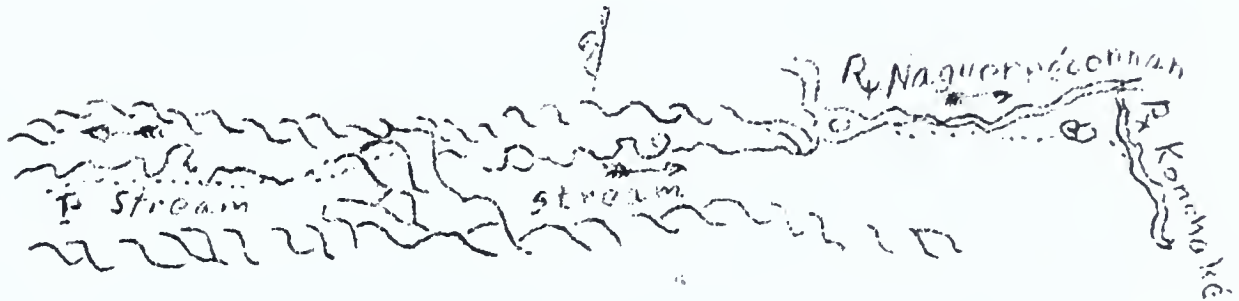
[March] 29th,

Saturday, we left at 8 o'clock, and at once crossed the branch of Rivière Couchaké, in water up to our waists; at 3 o'clock we went through a second branch of the Couchaké, not as wide as the first but deeper. We were numb with cold, more so, because hail and wet snow fell all day with a strong north wind; at 5 o'clock we arrived at a small tributary of the Couchaké. We waded through it, in water up to our knees. It was 4 toises wide. At half past five we left the Rivière Couchaké, and at 6 o'clock arrived at the Couchaké village. During this journey we crossed over a number of mountains and escarpments along this Rivière Couchake, which we had followed almost continuously. It might be from 20 to 25 toises wide, the rain having increased its size. It is quite rapid. We traveled almost always to the southeast, 7 or 8 leagues at least. We noticed that the buds were beginning to open in the tulip trees.

[March] 30th,

Sunday, Easter Day, at 8:30 we departed; camped at 5:30. At noon we left the Rivière Naguerréconnan, and followed a stream until 4 o'clock, when we ascended a high mountain. Afterward, we followed a stream which flows E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E. The one we left at 4 o'clock flows in the same direction but we ascended the former, and descended the latter. Our route was almost always E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E.

Here is a sketch of today's route; I estimated it to be  $8\frac{1}{4}$  leagues long.



We had snow and hail all day; the sun did not appear; nevertheless we kept on going.

Couchaké is a place where the Hurons took refuge during the war; 120 died during one summer. One can still see the graves and the remains of the village which was there at that time. Only two of the cabins are left, one belongs to the Sault St. Louis savages who have been there for a long time, the other belongs to the Five Nations. Teganakoikin lent me a horse for my journey to Fort Duquesne, without setting any price. He was to send for it in a month. The weather was cold, with a strong north wind.

[March] 31st,

Monday, I was unable to leave until half past eight. The horse the savage had lent me at Couchaké got away, and we searched for him in vain, so there was nothing to do but walk. I deeply regretted the loss of the horse. At 11 o'clock we discovered the Rivière Naguerréconnan; at noon we passed two Huron winter cabins. We had followed the same stream as yesterday, which emptied into the river. At 11:30, we followed said river until 4 o'clock when we crossed it in water up to our waists; it might be 30 toises wide. We went E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E. until 12 o'clock, from noon until 5:15 went N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.; at 5:15 we camped.

Sketch of our route. We found coal on the mountains; altogether we had made  $7\frac{1}{4}$  leagues.





April

[April] 1st,

Tuesday, we departed at 7:30, and camped at 4:30; we made about  $7\frac{1}{4}$  leagues. At 7:45 we ascended and descended two large mountains, going north; at 8:45 crossed a branch of the Rivière Naguerréconnan. It flows to the north at this place; we followed this river all day and passed four meadows; the largest, a league from the two mountains, was passed at 9:45; we went east northeast until noon, and east from noon until 4:30. During the day we passed several small mountains; fair weather, wind to the east northeast. At 7 o'clock it started to rain and continued till midnight.

[April] 2nd,

Wednesday, it rained from midnight to nine o'clock when we left. At 1:15, it started to rain again. We camped. We had gone two leagues to the eastward, and at 10 o'clock crossed a branch of the Rivière Naguerréconnan and went up and down a mountain, always following the same branch which is 3 toises wide, where we camped. I reckoned that we were 30 leagues from Lake Dotsandoské, according to the daily estimation I made of the route. I discovered as I had the previous day, that the country is very beautiful, and suitable for settlement.

[April] 3rd,

Thursday, it snowed during the night and was very cold; same weather today. At 10 o'clock we departed because the snow ceased; at 4:30 we camped; we had made 7 leagues. We followed the branch of the Rivière Naguerréconnan until 1 o'clock; it was not more than two feet wide. We ascended a mountain, descended it, and found a small stream which we followed. At 1:30 we passed the road going to Cachekacheki, it seemed to go north northeast; at 3:15 we passed a river which is a tributary of the Kenton8aiatanion. It is 3 toises wide,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep, and flows to the south at the point where we crossed it. At 4 o'clock we found this river again and followed it until 4:10, when we left it. We passed a great many mountains. The river we left is called Rivière au Portrait, because at its mouth where it flows into Belle Rivière, there are many signs and figures of men and animals chiseled on the rocks as though made with chisels. Our course was E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E.

[April] 4th,

Friday, we left at 7:15; at 9:45 we passed a river which is 15 toises wide, 2 feet deep, and flows south. From the time of our departure to this river, we crossed two streams an equal distance apart; at noon we passed a river similar to the one we passed at 9:45, it flows south and seems to be the other branch of the Rivière Outstin8ayatouyou. At 2:30 found a small stream which flows into the Rivière Chingué; camped at 5:15. I estimate we made 10 leagues today,



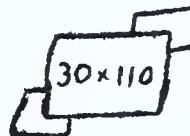
going E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E. At 6 o'clock it began to rain and continued all night; fine country, with open woods. In the evening we heard cries which my savages recognized as tigers', which they fear greatly. As a protection during the night, we made a shelter because the savages say they climb. We placed our guns within reach and stationed a sentinel. All night long, we heard the calls from a distance.

[April] 5th,

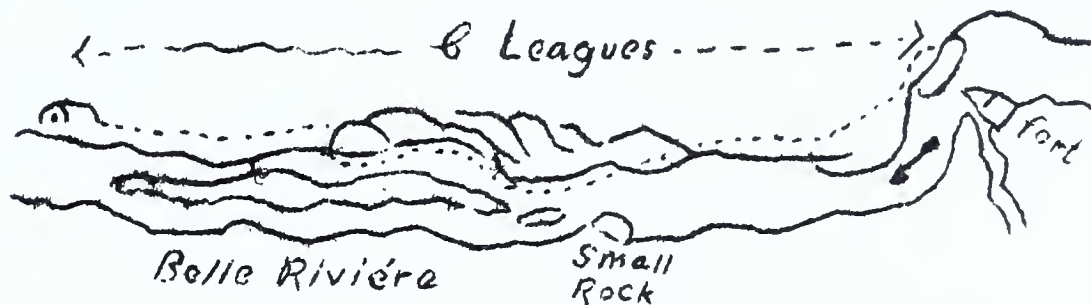
Saturday, at 7:15 in the morning, I departed; at 8:45 Rivière de Chiningué, two leagues from our camp. We passed great mountains. This river is about 35 toises wide and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep. It runs north and south at the place where we crossed it until it flows into Belle Rivière, twelve or fifteen arpents lower down. Our route coming here was east  $\frac{1}{4}$  southeast.

At 10:15 came upon the Belle Rivière which I had not seen for 16 years, when I surveyed it while going to the Chichachats in 1739. We followed it as far as the little Cha8anons village where we arrived at 12:30. It is four leagues from the Rivière Chiningué; halfway is a house where a French officer wintered in 1754.

Diagram of said house.



At 2:30 left on horseback for Fort Duquesne where I arrived at 8:30. The first half of the way is through woods skirting the Rivière Oyo. The shore is followed for two leagues, then it enters the woods where the going is very good. The shore is followed only when the water is low, to avoid the mountains and rocky ravines found along the road which goes through the woods. The small rock is on the shore opposite the road. Here is a sketch of the river; I could not see it very distinctly as night had come.



I estimate that the distance from the Cha8anons village to the fort is ... (the rest is missing in the original).

## NOTES

The "3" was used by the French to represent an Indian sound, for which there was no equivalent in their alphabet. The English usually rendered it as "w", and words in which De Lery used it may be pronounced accordingly. Thus, Outa8ois becomes Ottawas.

The French system of measurement was far from being standardized, until the French Revolution established the metric system. It is, therefore, difficult to give exact equivalents to the measures used by De Léry. The foot was slightly less than a modern English foot. The following table shows the relationship of the various French measures:

League	-	84 arpents	-	840 perches	-	2520 toises	-	15120 feet
Arpent	-	10 perches	-	30 toises	-	180 feet		
Perch	-	3 toises	-	18 feet				
Toise	-	6 feet						

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